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Near East/South Asia Report

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24 February 1984

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AL-KHULI SEES EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY CLASH

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 316, 12 Dec 83 pp 26-28

[Interview with Lutfi al-Khuli in Nicosia: "Military Clash Between Egypt and Israel Inevitable"; date not specified]

[Text] Lutfi al-Khuli is one of Egypt's progressive political thinkers and a member of the general secretariat, a member of the executive office and an official of the Arab affairs office of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG]. He also represents a major current within the party working for the abrogation of the Camp David Accords.

On his way back from Tripoli, where he represented the NPUG in the Egyptian popular delegation for support of the PLO and its leadership, represented by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, he and the delegation stopped over in Nicosia to hold a press conference to state their views and visions concerning what is taking place in Tripoli. This presented an opportunity for a dialogue about anxieties associated with this historical moment.

Arab Day of Resurrection

[Question] What is your assessment of the present active Arab forces? We see the Iraqi-Iranian war in the east, the Palestinian conflict in Tripoli and Libya's involvement in other issues such as the Chad problem. How can we sum up the Arab forces that face Israel politically and militarily?

[Answer] There is no one Arab force presently able to face Israel alone. Rather, no combination of Arab forces is capable of such a confrontation because these forces have dropped the military option. This was clearly demonstrated during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Despite the existence of sufficient objective circumstances for productive Arab intervention capable of breaking the back of the Israeli military machine, no one intervened in Beirut. The Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Forces had to fight the 88-day battle alone. No one came forward to lend a helping hand or offer material, military, economic or political support to break through the siege. There was total Arab stupor as well as impotence on the part of political organizations and forces due to the absence of democracy, to spurious consciousness and to the disappearance of activity by the masses. The only force presently exercising the military option is the Palestinian revolution. It seems that just because it did not drop this

option but insisted on it, it is being cornered not only by the American-Israeli alliance but by Arab sides as well. Consequently, we are facing now a tragic situation. However, this situation will not last because it contradicts history, nature, reality and the people's will and interests. It is inevitable that we either face a guiding process in the Arab position able to spearhead, on common grounds, an attempt to overcome these difficulties or find ourselves at the doors of what we continually refer to as the Arab day of resurrection which will create a devastating state of anarchy for a certain period of time until a new leadership can be declared of age at the Arab nation's national level. It is no coincidence that at the same time that aggression against the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon broke out, the Iraqi-Iranian war and Iranian expansion also broke out after we had hoped that the Iranian revolution would be a part of the forces active in the region against the American-Israeli alliance.

Masked Sadatists

[Question] Can we deduce that those who are trying to strike the only Arab revolution qualified for military struggle are seeking a solution of surrender?

[Answer] Events have revealed that al-Sadat was not the only visible one in Egypt who signed the Camp David Accords. There are other Sadatists who did not openly sign Camp David but went along with its logic. Consequently, there is more than one Sadat under the surface and behind masks, some of which are revolutionary and others non-revolutionary. But ultimately they meet on the same road and the same goal of concluding what al-Sadat called a historic conciliation with Zionism. In other words, it is not only a matter of liquidating Arab progress and development and the new Arab formula for civilizational progress, but also Arab existence as a whole.

Replacing Regimes with Peoples

[Question] You said in a radio talk that the only solution for getting rid of the Israeli presence in Lebanon is armed popular resistance. How can the Arab countries support such a struggle?

[Answer] Events in West Beirut proved that the weapon able to face what Israel calls blitzkrieg is an armed popular movement that relies on long term guerilla warfare, for which we possess the capabilities, the depth and the nucleus, represented in the Palestinian revolution and embodied in the PLO. The problem is that there is no hope in these regimes. Therefore, we must replace regimes with peoples. In my estimation, the regimes are losing their legitimacy because they have achieved neither democracy nor socialism nor have they alleviated Arab suffering or combatted the enemy. Consequently, an Arab front able, with the Palestinian revolution's nucleus, to take off within this framework, exercising pressure, guidance and supervision, genuinely contributing to the Arab decision-making process and affecting true changes in policies and regimes must be built.

[Question] We notice great rapprochement on several positions between the ruling party in Egypt and the opposition parties headed by the NPUG. Where is the Egyptian opposition headed now?

[Answer] Where is the rapprochement?

[Question] There are many positions.

[Answer] There is no rapprochement with the ruling party but rather a great conflict because the ruling party is a group of Sadatists who agree with the open door policy that has plundered the country, halted production, paid deference to parasitical interests and has been bent on being tied to world capitalism, American capitalism in particular. They are also on the side of the American-Israeli alliance and support Camp David. But we notice some distinction between the presidency of Husni Mubarak and the ruling party establishment and government. We see that the presidency is going in some positive directions, be it on the domestic economic and political level, or on the level of ties and restored bridges with the Arab nation and elimination of hostility which al-Sadat tried to intensify between the Egyptian and Arab peoples, or on the level of commitment to a policy of non-alignment and non-subordination to the U.S. All of these are positive steps, but they represent a declaration of policies which, when an attempt is made to put them into effect, fail in the face of endeavors by the government and the ruling party to abort them. Hence, we agree with those directives announced by President Mubarak every now and then, but we also believe that they are not enough because the government does not carry them out. In this framework, we in the NPUG call upon all popular forces to undertake a frontal action to put these directives, which reflect the people's will, into effect. This is a long-range issue that must be solved within the scope of available capabilities.

[Question] That means that there is a contradiction.

[Answer] A major one.

[Question] Between the presidency and the ruling party?

[Answer] No, the major contradiction is between us and the ruling party. There are also secondary contradictions between the presidency and the ruling party. There the situation is not so simple as to say there are no contradictions. Hence, the vigorous movement within Egyptian society.

[Question] This means that you believe that the Egyptian opposition today is more animated than in the Sadat era?

[Answer] Certainly. But it is not strong enough yet to change the balance of power [in Egypt].

[Question] Is that why it did not clash with the authorities, I mean Mubarak's authority?

[Answer] There are clashes with authority within the framework of legitimacy and the constitution, that take into consideration an order of priorities that places the national issue--the Palestinian issue in particular--at the top of the struggle, with the democracy issue and the development issue. In this framework, we see Mubarak closer to us than to the ruling party which he heads.

In light of these circumstances, the opposition must adopt a reasonable position, a position that emphasizes positivisms and criticizes negativisms, which is what we are doing. We support or criticize what is taking place or what President Mubarak proclaims. But the fact is that we have a radical position towards the choices of the ruling party and the Sadatist forces politically, socially and economically, be it on the local, national or international levels.

[Question] How do you perceive the effect of events within the Palestinian revolution on the Arab liberation movement?

[Answer] What we see now is more cloudiness, more dissipation of forces and more attempts to cause secondary contradictions to get the upper hand over the primary contradiction with the American-Israeli alliance. This situation is not only harmful to the Palestinian issue but to the whole movement of development and change in the Arab nation as well.

Rallying Around the Program

[Question] Do you believe that the minimum on which most political ideological currents within the NPUG agree is enough to face the demands of the historical phase?

[Answer] I believe so. Events have proven the validity of this point. Although the NPUG is a grouping of several political, social and ideological forces, it has been able, through a democratic dialogue among its various detachments, to arrive at a program of struggle within the framework of legitimate action. This program has acquired a common intellectual background in terms of comprehension, effectiveness and implementation. Because of such unity around the program, the party has been able to withstand persecution, repulsion and suppression exercised by al-Sadat and his agencies. The fact that it still exists and is getting stronger day after day proves that this formula heretofore has been successful.

[Question] What is your perception of the reality and the horizons of joint Arab action in this historic phase?

[Answer] It is what the Palestinian revolution is facing, plus the issue of democracy as a national cause and the issue of development as a national cause. This can only be attained against the background of the Palestinian revolution and of returning Egypt to the Arab fold, in view of it being the backbone, in order to restore democracy and efficacy to the Arab people, who have become mere spectators. The issue of development is directed at facing the American-Israeli alliance with all its capabilities in order to create a kind of self-developmental integration of the Arab powers.

[Question] To what extent has mass action in the NPUG achieved its goals? And, are you wary of a popular uprising similar to that of January 1977?

[Answer] Mass action in any party, not just the NPUG, is in a constant state of ebb and flow. It benefits from the development and relations of forces in society and from organization and mobilization. There is no doubt that mass action in the NPUG has achieved some progress, but it is not enough. We want

to evolve from a basic force of expression and little action to a force of political action with political expression, that is, cohesion between the force of action and expression. This will come through the daily struggles of the party's fighters. Field trips undertaken by general secretariat members and by the party's secretary general to a number of places in Alexandria, al-Daqahliyah, Aswan, Rashid and Damietta have confirmed that the party's popular base is growing and expanding qualitatively and quantitatively. It is an ongoing process. About another uprising similar to the one in January [1977], I don't believe that history repeats itself. However, the presence of an atmosphere of relative freedom, for which we are fighting, can prevent such haphazard mass uprisings. But increased suppression and more emergency and extraordinary laws could very well lead to such an anarchic mass eruption.

[Question] What course of action for abrogating Camp David is better for the Egyptian mass movement at the present time: phased abrogation or abrogation all at once?

[Answer] Until now, and based on the vision of the status quo and the foreseeable future, both on the Egyptian and Arab levels, it is necessary to block first and then abrogate. It can be said that the blocking stage is almost over. Normalization of relations with the enemy is almost non-existent and refusal to make any contacts with Israel at all levels is total now. The so-called Israeli embassy is besieged and cannot have any contacts with any force in Egypt. Even its neighbors are demanding its departure. The Israelis are bitterly complaining that this "peace" is a cold peace. What they had hoped to get out of the agreement did not materialize. Israel is trying on its part to implement "Camp David" in its conspiratorial expansionist sense through continued occupation of Egyptian territory in Tabah and 17 other locations, a practice that has denuded "Camp David" and Israel's method of implementing agreements it signs, namely, continued blackmail.

Consequently, a clash between Israel and Egypt is inescapable, not only in spite of "Camp David," but rather because of Israel's method of implementing the "Camp David" accords. This is an objective expression of a historical fact that this region cannot accept two major powers.

[Question] The Middle East region?

[Answer] The Arab region. The two major powers in the region are Egypt and Israel: Israel with its military weight and Egypt with its political, human and civilizational as well as military weight. Israel is trying to make itself with American help the modern, advanced and militarily strong city, in contrast to the surrounding Arab rural area which the U.S. is bent on keeping in a state of backwardness. Hence the inevitable struggle over who will be the main pivotal force in the area: Egypt of the Zionist entity.

[Question] It is a struggle of destiny?

[Answer] And of civilization as well. Therefore, and Camp David notwithstanding, the Egyptian-Israeli clash is coming. It is definitely coming.

[Question] Strictly Egyptian-Israeli?

[Answer] By letting objective historical circumstances ripen, it will happen.

RAPPROCHEMENT WITH IRAQ DISCUSSED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 316, 12 Dec 83 p 24

[Article: "New Phase in Egyptian-Iraqi Relations. Will Mubarak Visit Baghdad?"]

[Text] Relations between Egypt and Iraq have entered a new phase delineated by President Saddam Husayn when he declared that it was no longer a matter of military purchases, but rather the spirit of relations encompassing economic cooperation for the sake of consolidating and promoting brotherly ties between the two countries in the various fields. The Iraqi president's declaration was included in a long press interview published in AL-AHRAM newspaper on Friday, 2 December, in which he said that Egypt and Iraq are consulting on important political issues, and that military purchases are taking on a meaning of brotherly help to Iraq more than any other meaning.

Somewhere else in the interview, which presented to the public, particularly within Egypt, a clear picture of developments in the Iranian-Iraqi war and Iraq's position on various Arab events and issues, President Saddam said that existence or non-existence of diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level will not prevent his visiting Egypt "and I would visit Egypt right now without these formalities if my circumstances allowed. On the other hand, any time that brother President Husni Mubarak is able to visit Iraq we will receive him in a way worthy of Egypt and him and will give him the best possible welcome in his second country, Iraq."

Observers sense in President Saddam's interview an invitation for President Mubarak to visit Iraq and also a new advanced phase of relations, a phase that began to transpire and took a tangible step when Husni Mubarak declared openly, before the Egyptian People's Assembly on 14 March 1982, that "our sympathies are with Iraq in the Gulf war and we will not hesitate to do anything we can."

In February of this year, Egypt declared through President Husni Mubarak its solidarity with Iraq in its battle with Iran, saying that Iraq is fighting this battle against an Iranian aggression aimed at Iraq and the Arab nation. This was said in a message from President Mubarak carried to President Saddam by two high-ranking Egyptian officials, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's office. In this message, Egypt reaffirmed its readiness to stand with Iraq in this battle of national significance. In his meeting with the two Egyptian officials, President

Saddam praised Egypt's national stand and President Mubarak's position, emphasizing that Iraq expected such a position from Egypt.

Prior to Ghali and al-Baz's visit to Baghdad, Sa'dun Hamadi, former Iraqi foreign minister, announced on 11 May 1982 that the Arab nation did not wish Egypt to stay alienated from the Arab ranks. When asked about this matter, President Saddam Husayn said: "If President Mubarak takes one step towards resumption of Arab relations with Egypt, the Arab countries must take two steps.

Likewise, the following period witnessed high-level contacts between Cairo and Baghdad. Mubarak received the first message from Saddam Husayn on 4 July 1982 concerning the non-aligned summit, which was supposed to have been held in Baghdad before agreement was reached on moving it to New Delhi instead. Cairo was intent on coordinating with Baghdad and hence, the Ghali-al-Baz visit. The first meeting between Mubarak and a high Iraqi official, Iraqi vice-president Taha Ma'ruf, who headed his country's delegation to the summit, took place during the non-aligned summit on the 7th of this past May.

However, Egyptian-Iraqi rapprochement reached an apex when Iraqi foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz undertook the first official visit by a senior Iraqi official to Cairo 3-5 July when he met with President Mubarak and declared in Cairo that talks revolved around furthering bilateral relations between the two countries. The visit was accompanied by speculation on the imminent resumption of formal relations between Egypt and Iraq, speculation that grew during the last few weeks when First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stopped in Cairo to meet with the president. It is worth noting that Egyptian-Iraqi rapprochement raised Israel's concern, which was clearly reflected in Israeli press commentaries, especially in YEDI'OT AHARONOT, which commented on Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Egypt, openly expressing its apprehension about the development of relations and "the rebuilding of diplomatic bridges between the two countries."

It is also worth noting that the visit of the Iraqi foreign minister to Egypt resulted in closer viewpoints between Cairo and Baghdad; the two sides announced that their positions on a great number of Middle East and Palestinian special issues were similar. Mr Tariq 'Aziz said: "We agree on many analyses concerning the dangers threatening the Arab nation and the steps the Arab leadership must adopt in the coming phase."

That visit resulted in an increase in the number of employees working in the Iraqi and Egyptian interests sections in Cairo and Baghdad, and the two sides agreed to exchange ministerial visits in several fields. The last few months witnessed the vitalization of more than one aspect of cooperation between the two countries. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, declared that Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Egypt is bound, within the framework of on-going consultations, to give impetus to relations with Iraq and is a step forward in Arab relations with Egypt. On his part, the Iraqi minister called for a new form of Arab relations after the traditional form had failed in facing challenges.

With the continued development of Egyptian-Iraqi relations, and following President Saddam's talk, and in light of Arab circumstances in general as well,

political circles in Cairo expect further develop in relations between the two countries early next year, possibly represented in President Mubarak's visit to Baghdad. Such expectations are based on the premise that the visit, if undertaken, will be tantamount to a summing up of the nature of relations between Cairo and Baghdad, on the one hand, and that Cairo, within the framework of political movement towards the resumption of Egyptian-Iraqi relations, sees in Baghdad the Arab capital that most supports the return of relations with Egypt as soon as possible. Just as Baghdad appreciates Cairo's position on the Gulf war, Cairo appreciates Baghdad's position on relations between the two peoples and the positions of the political leadership in Baghdad towards the Egyptian people in the worst times of the rift following the signing of the Camp David Accords and their supplements.

12502

CSO: 4504/137

GOVERNMENT HOLDS ELECTIONS TO SUFI COUNCIL UNDER STRICT CONDITIONS

Cairo MAYU in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 14

[Article by Fu'ad al-Sayyid: "Publicity, Speeches and Printed Materials Are Prohibited in the Elections to the Sufi Council"]

[Text] The office of the Governorate of Cairo has witnessed the first election of its kind. The well known techniques of election publicity in the form of distribution of printed materials, the holding of meetings, the giving of speeches and so forth were not used in it. The candidates for membership in the Higher Sufi Council, which is re-elected every 3 years, contented themselves with personal communications with the paramount sheikhs of the Sufi orders, who come to about 70 and belong to the Higher Council of Sufi Orders, under whose banner about 6 million members, who are called adepts, are included. The members are called adepts.

Since it has been a Sufi tradition for the candidate for election not to resort to testimonials for himself, this task has been left to aides and adepts. The holding of the elections was preceded by special meetings and it became clear who had the better chances of winning. Therefore, some candidates took the initiative of withdrawing their candidacy before the elections.

Mr Yusuf Abu Talib, the governor of Cairo, Mr 'Abd-al-Latif Baltiyah, the chairman of the local People's Assembly, and Dr Abu-al-Wafa al-Ghunaymi al-Taftazani, the paramount sheikh of the Sufi orders, witnessed the election process. The nomination papers were distributed to the people present. All members were asked to nominate 10 members for the Higher Sufi Council out of 13 members who had presented themselves for the new council.

The election process and the vote count revealed that all the former members of the Higher Sufi Council won except one, Mr Muhammad Malik 'Ilwan, the sheikh of the al-'Ilwaniyah Order. Mr Muhammad Kamil Yasan, the sheikh of the al-Rifa'iyah Order, won most of the votes. Also winning membership were Messrs:

Hasan al-Shinawi, sheikh of the al-Shinawiyah al-Ahmadiyah Order, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jawhari, sheikh of the al-Jawhariyah Order, Muhammad Salamah

Nuwaytu, sheikh of the al-Ahmadiyah Order, 'Abd-al-Sami' Muhammad Sutuhi, sheikh of the al-Sutuhiyah Order, Shaykh Hasan al-Jindi, sheikh of the al-Jindiyyah Order, Shaykh Mustafa al-Shabrawi, sheikh of the al-Shabrawiyah Order, Ahmad Shams-al-Din, sheikh of the al-Maraziqah al-Ahmadiyah Order, and Shaykh Ahmad al-Farghali, sheikh of the al-Farghaliyah Order.

Following the announcement of the results, the governor of Cairo, Mr 'Abd-al-Latif Baltiyah, and Dr Abu-al-Wafa al-Ghunaymi al-Taftazani, the paramount sheikh of the Sufi orders, greeted the winners. Dr al-Ghunaymi al-Taftazani recommended that a telegram of support for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak be sent, and everyone agreed.

Dr al-Taftazani described the new council's plan for promoting the Sufi orders and said that the law issued in 1976 had the goal of promoting the Sufi orders in full in terms of the call to Islam.

Dr al-Taftazani said that the time had come for the Sufi orders to be active in areas of public service, and some orders have actually oriented themselves toward activity in this field.

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CSO: 4504/156

IMF PROPOSES SOLUTION TO EGYPTIAN EXCHANGE RATE QUESTION

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 36, 17 Dec 83 p 40

[Article by 'Abd al-Qadir Shahib: "After Egypt's Refusal to Devalue Its Currency, the International Monetary Fund Suggests Two Exchange Rates for the Egyptian Pound"]

[Text] The Egyptian government is now studying a new proposal from the International Monetary Fund [IMF] intended as a compromise solution to the problem of the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound. The problem is the result of Egypt's rejection of a request by the IMF that an official, comprehensive and large devaluation of the Egyptian pound with respect to other foreign currencies be carried out. The IMF says that Egypt must agree to this request--along with others--in order for a new agreement to be concluded with it and for it to be provided with a new loan.

The new proposal by the experts at the IMF, which was submitted to Egyptian officials by Dr 'Abd al-Shakur Sha'lan during his brief visit to Cairo last month, calls for keeping two exchange rates for the Egyptian pound after devaluation, instead of unifying all of its rates of exchange with respect to foreign currencies.

The IMF experts suggest that the first rate for the Egyptian pound be fixed. It would be used in transactions which currently take place within the framework of the Egyptian Central Bank's foreign currency center. It would be maintained as a fixed rate for a certain period of time, until the studies being done now by some Egyptian agencies of the side effects which would be produced by changing this exchange rate are complete. At the same time, the governmental authorities are preparing to confront these side effects, most of which would be concentrated in the area of rising prices for basic commodities in Egypt.

As for the second exchange rate for the Egyptian pound suggested by the IMF experts, it would be a floating or variable rate. It would be much lower than the first, official and "fixed" rate. It would be used in all transactions which are outside the framework of the transactions of the foreign currency division of the Central Bank.

It is well known that the Egyptian pound now has five exchange rates with respect to foreign currencies.

The first rate is used by the center of the Egyptian Central Bank. According to this rate, the dollar equals 70 piasters. It is used to finance the importation of seven basic commodities: wheat, flour, tea, sugar, oils, fertilizer, and insecticide. It is also used to calculate the value of Egypt's petroleum exports, transit fees on the Suez Canal, and the service charge on Egypt's foreign debt in terms of installments and interest payments.

The second rate is used in the foreign currency center of the commercial banks. According to this rate, the dollar is equal to 84 piasters. It is basically used to calculate tourism income and the savings of Egyptians who work abroad. In addition, it is used to finance importation without currency exchange.

The third rate is used in commercial transactions between Egypt and countries to which it is linked by commercial agreements or payment agreements. According to this rate, the dollar is worth only 35 piasters. This use of this rate has come to be limited to commercial transactions between Egypt and only three other countries: The Soviet Union, the Sudan, and Yugoslavia. In past years, numerous trade and payment agreements between Egypt and some socialist and Third World countries have been cancelled.

As for the fourth rate, it dominates the free market for foreign currency inside Egypt. Inside this market, the dollar now equals about 120 piasters. The basic source of foreign currency inside this market, which is controlled by a limited number of foreign currency traders, consists of the savings of Egyptians working abroad.

In recent weeks, a new exchange rate for the Egyptian pound has been added. It is the rate at which Egyptian banks, specifically the public sector banks, buy foreign currency from Egyptians working abroad. According to this new incentive rate, the dollar is worth 110 piasters. The Egyptian banks adopted this rate in order to attract the savings of Egyptians abroad by an Egyptian mechanism, instead of converting these savings by means of foreign currency traders and brokers in Egypt.

The IMF's Demands

In past years, the experts at the IMF have been demanding that the Egyptian economic authorities do away with this multiplicity of exchange rates for the Egyptian pound. They have wanted the separate rates to be unified into a single "realistic" rate close to the rate predominating in the free market, so that illegal foreign currency trading could be eliminated. This implies an official devaluation of the Egyptian pound, in preparation for floating it and establishing a commercial market for foreign exchange in Egypt.

Therefore, the IMF experts have demanded the cancellation of the remaining payment and trade agreements that bind Egypt to some countries, the merging of the foreign currency division of the Central Bank with that serving the commercial banks, and, finally, the announcement of a new, "realistic" exchange rate for the Egyptian pound with respect to foreign currencies, since the pound's current rate is held to be unrealistic, artificial and inconsistent with the currency's true value on the international currency markets.

Two years ago, the IMF experts suggested devaluing the Egyptian pound by about 20 percent. However, they no longer think this would be enough!

Opinion of the Egyptian Officials

During the numerous negotiations held by the Egyptian authorities and the representatives of the IMF, the Egyptian officials usually announced their agreement with the IMF's suggestion that the exchange rates for the pound be unified and the currency devalued. However, at the same time they expressed reservations concerning the immediate execution of these suggestions, out of fear that this would lead to a large increase in prices, especially with respect to basic commodities, thereby overburdening those with limited incomes. They feared execution of these measures would lead to an increase in the Egyptian balance of payments deficit and in Egypt's foreign debt burden.

Thus, the IMF experts made a new suggestion designed to reconcile their point of view with that of the Egyptian officials. It was the suggestion calling for maintaining two exchange rates for the Egyptian pound--a fixed, official rate, and an unofficial, variable rate.

The Egyptian authorities are now studying this proposal. An official Egyptian source stated to AL-TADAMUN that this suggestion is meeting with acceptance on the part of the Egyptian economic authorities. This statement is supported by measures and decisions taken by these authorities which have been intended to implicitly or partially devalue the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound. Thus, the Egyptian banks are buying foreign currency at a new incentive rate and foreign currency is being sold at a rate different from that in use at the commercial banks' center under the guise of an additional commission (for managing the currency).

At any rate, it is expected that the fate of this suggestion will be decided once and for all during the next negotiating session held by Egypt and the IMF.

12224
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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDES PLANS TO MECHANIZE FARMING

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Jan 84 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Aql: "Egypt Enters the Age of Mechanized Farming; Egyptian Agricultural Experts Completed Drafting a National Program To Make Mechanized Farming Universally Available in All Governorates; Program To Be Financed by 250 Million Dollars from IBRD, Romania, the United States and Japan"]

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali is asking that a principal mechanized farming station be set up in each administrative district in 5 years.

Cooperative societies and specialized firms are to take part in implementing the program.

Studies are being completed by experts in education, industry, military production and investment.

It was inevitable that there be a revolution that would advance Egyptian agriculture into the age of production by mechanized farming and solve problems that have been growing. Foremost among these problems are those that have to do with farmers abandoning the land and the lack of change in agricultural service systems.

Egyptian agricultural experts have actually completed [drafting] the first national program that would move Egyptian agriculture out of its traditional modes of agricultural production and cause it to utilize technological systems of production and advanced mechanized farming. Mechanized farming is an integrated modern system of production and not the mere [use of] tractors.

The aim of this program, which was drafted under the supervision of Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture, is the establishment of 150 principal mechanized farming stations over the next 5 years. Each administrative district is to have a principal mechanized [farming] station. About 250 million dollars have been provided to finance the first stage of the program. These funds were raised by means of loans from Romania (28 million dollars), the IBRD (200 million dollars), Japan (5 million dollars) and the United States (about 8 million dollars).

The national program for mechanized farming emphasizes the need for experts from the ministries of education, finance, investment, industry, military production and planning to participate in the various aspects of the program.

Egyptian agriculture began suffering from a gradual decline in farm workers since the seventies. Without going into details about why farmers have been abandoning the land, [let us state that] it was imperative that an immediate alternative be found to solve this problem. It is true that it was not too long ago that we began putting emphasis on mechanized farming, but our purpose then was to free farm animals from farm labor so they can be used entirely in meat and dairy production. Emphasis was also placed on importing agricultural tractors. It were as though mechanized farming consisted merely of agricultural tractors. Furthermore, because they were fast and accessible devices, agricultural tractors were used to remove top soil from farm land. They were used for that purpose instead of being used to render agricultural services because using agricultural tractors to remove top soil became very profitable for the owners of tractors. And that was how agricultural tractors stopped being agricultural devices.

After numerous experiments and applications of mechanized farming were conducted on a broad scale, Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture, approved a new strategy for mechanized farming. This new strategy will be presented in the next few days to the Council of Ministers.

The new agricultural strategy, which has seven balanced components, seeks the achievement of one national objective, and that is to increase national agricultural production.

The First Component: Mechanized Farming Stations

Mechanized farming depends primarily on the existence of stations which would be regarded as central bases for mechanized farming. These stations would be scattered throughout the governorates and used by the Ministry [of Agriculture] to transfer the technology of mechanized farming to farmers in accordance with their needs and the requirements of each area. Accordingly, the aim of the ministry's strategy has been to establish 150 mechanized farming stations at the rate of 1 station in each administrative district in the country. The reason behind this strategy is to have each station attend to the needs of its immediate environment so that the results achieved by each station would depend on the composition of the crop and the farming cycle of that district. The existence of a station within a district would mean that farmers can commute easily to the station and gain access promptly to the modern technology whose transfer to those farmers is being required. These stations will devise integrated farming techniques, and they will train farmers and show them how to use the machines. Twenty stations are to be established by the end of next June, and the remaining 150 stations are to be implemented within a 5 to 7 year period. These stations will try to provide services to a crop-yielding area that is not more than 10 percent of the total area of the district. The rest of the district will be served by specialized cooperatives, by the private sector and by companies.

The Second Component: a Growing Role for Cooperatives

Since it is the principal function of the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct experiments and applied research to solve the problems of Egyptian agriculture and provide farmers with guidance about the most suitable techniques they can use to solve these problems, the ministry plans and implements scientific training programs to increase the state's share of skills. Therefore, the philosophy of

establishing mechanized farming stations conforms with the first component of this strategy of carrying out these functions in an area that is no more than 10 percent of the crop-yielding area. The rest of the area would be covered by farmers and other organizations that are scattered throughout the countryside. These organizations are cooperatives specializing in mechanized farming. It was under the auspices of these cooperatives that a number of societies specializing in mechanized farming were established in the governorates of al-Buhayrah, al-Daqahliyah, al-Sharqiyah and Kafr al-Shaykh. In addition, necessary loans were provided at an interest rate of eight percent, and the acquisition of necessary machinery by farmers was made easier. The rest of the area [that is not covered by these stations] also includes firms that specialize in mechanized farming, leading farmers and some investors.

The Third Component: a Foundation for Mechanization

The well-contrived management and development of automation and mechanized farming in Egypt depends on the existence of a foundation for agricultural automation and mechanized farming in a constructive and sound organizational framework. This foundation would ensure the continuity and dynamic quality of automation. Hence, the organization of the national plan depends on developing and reinforcing the Institute of Mechanized Farming Research as an important base where scientific research can be conducted. A new agency is to be created in the Ministry of Agriculture; that new agency is to plan, implement, develop and manage the mechanized farming stations previously mentioned in the context of the first component of the ministry's strategy. This agency would be considered a specialized professional agency, and it would assume that responsibility in a manner [that would require] coordination and integration with the Institute for Mechanized Farming Research and the ministry's Office of Engineering Affairs. The Supreme Committee for Agricultural Automation is to be upgraded; it is to become the Supreme Council for Mechanized Agriculture and Training. That council is to be chaired by the minister, and its members are to include representatives of concerned agencies in the Ministry [of Agriculture] and in the ministries of industry, military production, economics, investment, education and finance.

The Fourth Component: the Required Financing Remains

Unless the necessary funds are raised for this plan, it will yield nothing since mechanized farming depends primarily on large investments in machinery and equipment that require both local and foreign financing. Therefore, the strategy of the plan depends on existing as well as future funds. This funding is as follows:

--The sum of 36 million pounds has been included in the present 5-Year Plan, and a few local loans have been arranged. These loans come from the U.S. loan for goods (about 8 million dollars), the IBRD loan (about 5 million dollars) and the Romanian loan (38 million dollars). The strategy [of this program] depends on the immediate use of these loans for the purchase of machinery and equipment that are necessary for mechanized farming. This machinery and equipment would be purchased whether they will be utilized by the stations or the cooperatives and companies that will be established. Besides, the ministry is also trying to secure more of these loans.

--By agreement with the IBRD the ministry is applying for a loan that will not exceed 200 million dollars to raise foreign currency for the purchase of farm machinery for stations, cooperatives and the private sector. It will be possible during the next 5 years to increase this according to the capacity for utilization as hard currency will be easy to find and at a high price.

--A foreign aid package has been made available to support mechanized agriculture. This aid will come either as funds for the purchase of machinery, or it will come as joint projects that will include, in addition to the purchase of machinery, technical assistance in conducting research and training. Five million dollars have been received from Canada, and 10 million dollars have been received from Japan for the first year of the plan. Communications are underway to secure [more] of this aid for future years and to point out the ways in which benefits from joint projects can be derived.

The Fifth Component: Maintenance Workshops

The aim of the strategy is to strengthen existing private sector workshops and encourage the establishment of more such workshops by offering easy-term loans and making the necessary spare parts, tools, machinery and equipment for these workshops available either from the local or the foreign market. The necessary training for people who work in these workshops is to be furnished to make it possible for a network of these workshops to be established nationwide. This network of workshops would serve as the principal foundation for any future technical activity.

The Sixth Component: Everyone Assumes His Responsibility

The problem of farm workers and [efforts to] overcome that problem constitute a national effort for which the Ministry of Agriculture assumes primary responsibility. There are other ministries, however, that are also responsible for [efforts to] overcome this problem. The Ministry of Education, [for example], has to review curricula for agricultural technical education [to ensure] that they are in step with new developments. The Ministries of Industry and Military Production are responsible for devising a wise policy for manufacturing agricultural machinery in Egypt. The Ministry of Investment is responsible for finding more Arab and foreign investments and international loans. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for giving mechanized farming a shot in the arm by facilitating customs measures and arranging financial allocations. The Ministry of Planning is being called upon to continue its cooperative stance in light of the easy terms it has offered. These terms were necessary to cover the loans and aid. Accordingly, the aim of the new strategy for mechanized agriculture is to streamline the coordination [of efforts] among all these ministries. This would be done by the proposed Supreme Council on Mechanized Farming and Training.

The Seventh Component: Specific National Responsibilities

The results of mechanization experiments completed during the past 2 years have confirmed beyond any doubt that if some mechanization operations were carried out, the return will be substantial, not only for individuals, but also for society as a whole. Therefore, postponing the implementation of these operations or not carrying them out would be both unacceptable and intolerable from the

standpoint of the national economy. Returns to society from mechanized operations [are estimated] to exceed the cost of these operations. Thus, the strategy requires that mechanized farming stations pull out the dry cotton plants [from the fields] free of charge so that land can be cleared nationwide and wheat planted on time. These mechanized farming stations are to plant wheat in the governorates of the country without charging for their service, and they are to use machinery that can sow the seeds in rows. Society can thus reap the fruits of increased wheat productivity with the next crop. The aim of the strong strategy that is being advanced by Dr Wali is to bring about a real revolution in farming. Ultimately, this means raising the average rate of intensified farming and achieving food security.

Specialized Societies and Firms

Because large land holdings have been broken up and because ownership of small tracts of land has become widespread, it was unavoidable that cooperative societies for farmers be formed. These societies acquire and own agricultural machinery, and they lease this machinery to farmers at fair prices. This is because most agricultural machinery is so expensive that small farmers cannot afford to acquire them. The aim of the ministry's strategy is to strengthen and develop these societies. The ministry wants to establish more of them, and it wants to offer them technical advice through the mechanized farming stations. The ministry also wants to provide for these societies the necessary technical staff. [For that purpose] a number of societies that specialize in mechanized farming have actually been established in the governorates of al-Buhayrah, al-Daqahliyah, al-Sharqiyah and Kafr al-Shaykh. In addition, the necessary loans have been furnished at an interest rate that does not exceed eight percent. Acquisition of this machinery is being made easier, and these cooperatives are being sponsored and supported in their early stages until they can become self-supporting and can carry out their constructive role in Egypt's agricultural economy.

The existence of private and public sector companies that specialize in mechanized farming and own machinery that they lease to farmers is considered a principal requirement in this area. This situation will hold until honest competition in the interests of Egyptian agriculture becomes available. The Maryut Company for Agricultural Engineering and the Mechanization of New Land has actually been established. Some companies have been established in Aswan, Qina, al-Buhayrah and al-Daqahliyah. The aim of the ministry's strategy is to support and strengthen these companies and encourage the establishment of more of them by making suitable loans available for them, by training the necessary technical staff for them and also by offering them technical advice through the mechanized farming stations.

Because Egyptian agriculture now includes a few leading farmers as well as a few investors who would like to acquire some agricultural machinery which they can lease to small farmers as an investment, the diffusion of mechanized services can be expedited and mechanization can be made universally available. Besides, private investments [in that area] can be stimulated. At the present time a few individuals in different governorates are purchasing modern machinery that proved to be successful in experiments carried out at the mechanized farming stations in Minyah al-Qasr, al-Mahallah and Sakha. The aim of the strategy is to encourage and support those individuals and to try to attract and steer capital to invest

in that area. It remains [to be said] that ministries and national agencies have their role to play in this national problem. That role is as follows:

Responsibility for developing technical cadres is one that is held jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture. Hence, the time has come for a full review of courses in agricultural and industrial technical education, both the intermediate and higher levels. [The time for such a review has come] so that education can serve society. Linkage between agricultural and industrial secondary schools as well as linkage between colleges of agriculture and mechanized farming stations will be established accordingly. These stations will be used [to provide] practical training for students of the forementioned schools and colleges. Workers at those stations will also fill in for teachers at these schools, and the stations will also use students to work in the summer to meet required needs. In addition, the workshops at industrial schools will be shored up and utilized [to provide] training, repair and maintenance during the course of study and primarily during summer vacations.

Industry

Mechanized farming in Egypt will not really take off unless it has an industrial base to depend on. That industrial base would be founded on economic principles so that Egypt's mechanized farming can be liberated from outside restrictions and domination by foreign factories and international policies. The aim of the strategy is to expedite present field experiments that are being conducted at stations for mechanized farming so that within a period of between 6 and 12 months the most suitable mechanized techniques that are necessary for Egyptian farming can be achieved. The picture would then become clear, and the kind of agricultural tractor that is needed for Egypt can be determined. The real power required for [that tractor] can be pinpointed and supplemental machinery for the tractor as well as detailed specifications for this machinery can be determined. These determinations would be based on a market study that would determine the size of demand for tractors, machinery and equipment. Thus, the Ministry of Industry and Military Production can later devise a wise policy for manufacturing agricultural machinery in Egypt.

The Economy and Investment

At the present time outside cooperation is required for the early stages of mechanized farming. Such cooperation can come either in the form of different foreign or Arab investments, or it can come in the form of international loans or financial and technical assistance. This can only be achieved through fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the ministries of investment and the economy. This is what these ministries have been doing for the past 2 years.

Finance

The important role that is being played by the Ministry of Finance in customs or in arranging the necessary financial appropriations is considered a basic, important role, giving mechanized farming in Egypt a shot in the arm. [Satisfactory performance of this role] requires further coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance to settle anything that may come up

during implementation, such as requirements or obstacles [that may come up] in customs, in incorporating necessary budgets or in utilizing different items. The aim of the strategy is to shore up the relationship with the Ministry of Finance in this regard so that the best method in this area can be devised.

Planning

The real success of mechanized farming in Egypt will be the product of purposeful scientific planning. What has been accomplished so far in this regard would not have been accomplished had it not been for the support and the constructive flexibility of the Ministry of Planning. The Ministry of Planning incorporated 36 million pounds for mechanized farming in the 5-Year Plan, and it provided the necessary terms to cover loans and foreign aid.

8592

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PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION DETAILED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Khalid Jabr: "What Is the Truth behind the Sugar Shortage? Sugar Cane Yield per Feddan Fell from 55 Tons to 35 Tons; Solution Lies in Applying Modern Farming Techniques and Encouraging Farmers"]

[Text] What happened to the sugar cane crop?

What happened to that crop which all of Upper Egypt used to brag about? What happened to the crop that gave Upper Egypt a competitive edge over all countries of the world? What happened to the crop that we used to process all the sugar we consumed? The surplus sugar [we had] used to be sold for mere pennies.

Sugar cane has now become a hard currency. We can no longer see it in the streets. Sugar refineries are also suffering from a shortage in the amount of sugar cane that is cultivated. Consequently, there is that gap which we all feel between our sugar production and our sugar consumption.

Engineer Faruq 'Afifi, chairman of the Permanent Council for the Sugar Cane Crop dots the i's and crosses the t's about the sugar cane shortage without going into preliminaries about what the sugar cane crop is suffering from.

The chairman of the council says, "The sugar cane crop is responsible for providing sugar in Egypt. Sugar is a worldwide commodity that is consumed by the whole world. Only 5 years ago world production of sugar was 91 million tons and world consumption was 85.7 million tons. Now, however, world production is 97.6 million tons, and consumption is 90.7 million tons even though the world now is experiencing a slump in sugar production, with world stockpiles reaching 31.3 million tons and prices also falling from 797 dollars a ton to 270 dollars a ton. However, one cannot rest assured that all these conditions will continue. In fact, the matter requires that we produce more sugar than we need."

About Egypt Engineer Faruq 'Afifi says that by 1973 Egypt had achieved self-sufficiency in sugar production. Local sugar production was 585,000 tons, and that quantity was enough for local consumption. But after that date the rate and volume of consumption began rising rapidly. The rise in the rate or volume of production was not as fast as that in the rate or volume of consumption. And thus it was that the present gap between production and consumption occurred. This gap is being filled by imports. Last year local sugar production amounted to 682,000

tons, whereas sugar consumption was about 1.1 million tons. This is a difference of 418,000 tons of sugar, and that difference was made up by imports. In addition, strategic sugar reserves are also imported. Thus total sugar imports amount to about 592,000 tons a year.

The present gap between the rate of production and the rate of consumption is growing continuously. Although sugar production has not risen significantly, consumption has been rising at a rate of 15 percent a year. Last year average per capita sugar consumption amounted to about 30 kilograms a year.

An Agricultural Problem

The sugar problem is not one of industrial production or of consumption only; it is also an agricultural problem. There was a noticeable decline during this period in the average yield [of sugar cane] per feddan. Whereas in 1972 the average yield per feddan was about 39 tons, in 1978 that average fell to 31 tons. Last year after tremendous efforts on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Permanent Council for the Sugar Cane Crop, the average yield per feddan was 35 tons. This [figure was achieved] after the ministry pinpointed the reasons for the decline in sugar cane production. These are concentrated in [the following]: a delay in developing new varieties [of sugar cane] and other reasons that have to do with irrigation, drainage and adverse land conditions in new areas. In addition, production costs are high.

The 4-ton increase in the average yield per feddan, which occurred between 1978 and 1983, was the result of the fact that a new variety had been developed. This is the G-9 variety. In addition, the ages [of the plants] were standardized and other projects [were effected] to grade the land, improve the soil, clear the creeks and drainage canals, furnish some agricultural machinery for deep tilling of the soil and establish mechanized farming companies in the three governorates that produce sugar cane: al-Minya, Qina and Aswan.

Despite this increase [in average yield per feddan] Engineer Faruq 'Afifi, chairman of the Permanent Council for the Sugar Cane Crop says that that increase was neither technically nor economically satisfactory. "This is because we can achieve more than that. In the past we were the second country in the world in [sugar cane] productivity per feddan after Peru in Latin America. Now, we are the sixth country in the world, after Peru, Indonesia, Colombia, Australia and the United States. Therefore, the objective that we have set for ourselves to achieve in the next 5 years is this: an average yield per feddan of 40 tons. This would realize for us an increase in total production of up to 100,000 tons of sugar."

Consumption Is Doubling

So much for the cultivation of sugar cane. What about consumption? The study that was sent by the minister of supply to the Supreme Committee for Production states significant facts. Until 1973 sugar production was sufficient for [local] consumption. But consumption rose year after year, and that increase in consumption was not met by an increase in production. Now we import as much sugar as we produce. In 1977 per capita sugar consumption was about 13 kilograms. That figure rose to 30 kilograms a year. This rate of consumption has exceeded rates of consumption for developing countries, and it has almost approached the rates of consumption

in advanced countries. By the end of 1987--the end of the 5-Year Plan--the population of Egypt will exceed 50 million persons. Assuming that sugar consumption will remain constant, and this is doubtful, that means that our sugar needs will be 1.65 million tons of sugar. However, it would be impossible to achieve that figure when we learn that productivity per feddan fell from 55 tons in the sixties to 35 tons now. In the past 10 years world prices for sugar have more than doubled. Prices jumped from 77 dollars in 1977 to 220 dollars this year. Local prices rose too despite the fact that sugar content has been reduced. Production costs per ton from the plant amounted to about 240 pounds. The present situation is critical, and the only way out is to reduce consumption and increase production.

The Processing Problem

Between planting the sugar cane and consuming the sugar there is an important link in that chain: it is that of processing. This link in the chain is not problem free; it may even constitute a series [of problems] associated with the sugar shortage [in Egypt] and connected with the problems of planting the sugar cane as well as those of sugar consumption.

It is Engineer 'Uthman Muhammad 'Atiyyah, chief of the sugar cane sector at the Egyptian Sugar and Refinery Company who speaks about processing. Engineer 'Atiyyah says, "The sugar industry all over the world depends on two principal crops: sugar cane and beets. Of all the sugar produced in the world 65 percent is produced from sugar cane. In Egypt the sugar industry depends entirely on the sugar cane crop. That was the case until experiments proved that sugar beets can be successfully cultivated in the northern and central Delta. Last year the first company for producing sugar from beets was founded; it is still in its early stages.

"The sugar cane crop is the raw material for the sugar industry and for industries that operate alongside the sugar industry. Sugar cane stands alongside cotton as one of the most important economic crops in Egypt. The total area nationwide that is cultivated with sugar cane amounts to about 250,000 feddans. About 200,000 feddans are earmarked for the sugar industry, and the rest [of the crop] is used to produce molasses; it is consumed as sugar cane; or it is used as seedlings for the cultivation of a new crop. The quantity of sugar cane that is to be processed is sent to refineries in Abu Qirgas, Naja' Hamadi, Dishna, Qaws, Aramant, Idfu and Kum Umbu. There is besides, the al-Hawamdiyah plant, which is now being overhauled.

"Most of these plants are suffering from a shortage in the quantity of sugar cane that is sent to them. In addition, little expansion is being carried out at those plants. Therefore, the production capacity that is available to our plants now is 745,000 tons. In spite of that, production does not exceed 682,000 tons, and that creates a shortage of about 63,000 tons."

The Way Out of the Crisis

There are two ways to solve this crisis. The first is defined by Dr Salih Hasan Farraj, authorized representative of the Sugar Crops Research Institute; Engineer Taha Mustafa Fayid, research director for sugar crops; and Dr 'Abd-al-Wahab

Isma'il, director of the Department of Cultivation and Genetics at the Sugar Crops Institute. There is a number of steps to increase our sugar cane production.

To achieve that objective several steps have to be taken.

--An effort is to be made to plant sugar cane seedlings in 25 percent of the total area cultivated with sugar cane annually so as to get rid of the old varieties.

--An effort is to be made to increase gradually the cultivation of the Jizah-Taiwan 9.54 variety. This variety of sugar cane is known as the S-9 variety. It is one of those high-yield and disease resistant varieties. Its effect [on the sugar industry] is evident; it raised the average yield at those plants which expanded its cultivation. The difference between the average yield of that variety and the average yield of other varieties was between 7 and 10 tons of sugar cane per feddan.

--Sugar cane cultivation projects are to be implemented in clustered areas. The ages of the plants are to be standardized so that heavy equipment can be used and agricultural operations can be carried out in the best possible manner at the appropriate times.

--The project to improve the sugar cane crop is to be implemented. This project is being implemented by the Permanent Council on Sugar Cane. Fertilizer and azote rations for sugar cane farmers are to be increased to make up for the fact that the waters of the Nile no longer overflow the banks of the river. This has had a major effect on sugar cane productivity per feddan and on the quality of production.

--Some farming operations are to be mechanized, and specialized companies are to be established to limit those problems that revolve around the shortage and the high cost of labor.

--New superior varieties of sugar cane are to be imported, and an effort is to be made to improve current commercial varieties and increase their productivity.

The second way to solve this crisis has to do with developing the process of processing sugar. It was defined by Dr Muhammad Hasan Tantawi, former president of the Egyptian Sugar and Refinery Company; Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al Khalif, the current president of the company; and Engineer 'Uthman 'Atiyyah, chief of the sugar cane sector. That way deals with specific steps.

--The Naja' Hamadi plant is to be refurbished, and new warehouses for sugar as well as a building for the plant's workshops are to be built.

--Steam boilers at the plants are to be replaced by others with twice the capacity.

--The cane press is to be replaced and refurbished, and new [production] lines are to be purchased. An agreement has actually been made with Japan to furnish two press lines, each with a daily capacity of 6,000 tons. One of them will be used at the Aramant plant, which has outlived its life expectancy since it began

operating in 1931. The other line will be for the Kum Umbu plant which has been operating since 1929. Two other lines with the same capacity will be furnished by the United States, and they will replace lines at the Naja' Hamadi plant, both of which have outlived their life expectancy.

--Power generating equipment and (Decoville) systems that are used in moving the sugar cane are to be replaced; the sugar cane moving operations are to be mechanized. All these systems have also outlived their presumed lives.

This is some of a lot [that must be said about this problem]. This is what we have to do so that the sugar cane crop and the sugar industry can regain their former status and one of our most important national crops can thrive again.

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CHANGES IN COMPOSITION OF CIRCUIT COURTS OF APPEALS DEBATED

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 19

[Article: "Are Cairo's Circuit Courts of Appeals Being Reorganized because Defendants in a Political Lawsuit Are Being Released?"]

[Text] Newspaper columnist, Mustafa Amin wrote [the following] in his column, "Fikrah," [A Thought] which appeared in the last issue of AKHBAR AL-YAWM:

"The general assembly of justices of Cairo's courts of appeals held a meeting last September and distributed lawsuits among the circuit courts. Two circuit courts were given jurisdiction over the state's top security cases. On 8 December a second meeting was held of the general assembly of the justices of the same court. The general assembly reviewed the matters that it was required to turn its attention to, but it did not review any changes in the jurisdictions of the circuit courts.

"It is being said now that a decree abolishing the jurisdiction of the supreme state security circuit court is being drafted. That circuit court, which had been empowered by the general assembly of justices to hear a particular political case, has issued numerous decrees ordering the release [of defendants] in that particular case.

"It is being said that this decree will be issued unilaterally by the chief justice of Cairo's Court of Appeals and that that is in accordance with a general assembly resolution authorizing him to issue such decrees about unforeseen matters. It is being said that justices of these circuit courts are being approached about leaving their positions on that circuit court to pursue other business. We do not wish to believe these rumors, and we are asking for an official report denying those statements."

What newspaper columnist, Mustafa Amin, feared might happen actually did. Three days [later] Justice Hasan Hafiz, chief justice [of the court] issued a decree requiring changes on the docket of Cairo's circuit courts of appeals. This decree was issued in accordance with the authorization he was given by the general assembly on 8 September [sic ?]1983.

The decree requires the following:

First, the first circuit court of appeals is to be reorganized; it is to consist of Justices Muhammad Shawqi Mahmud, 'Abd-al-Latif Mahmud Mustafa and Faruq 'Atiyyah al-Nadi.

Second, the second circuit criminal court of appeals is to be reorganized; it is to consist of the Justices 'Abd-al-Qadir Isma'il Sabri, vice president; Salah Muhammad 'Abd-al-Baqi; and Ahmad Raja'i Diwi.

Third, Justice Mahfuz al-Tukhi Shuman is to be transferred to the first circuit criminal court.

Fourth, Justice 'Abd-al-Latif Abu al-Nil is to go back to the second circuit criminal court.

Fifth, Justice Fu'ad Sa'id al-Fayyumi, vice president, is to be transferred [and promoted to] president of the 14th circuit civil court.

Sixth, Justices, 'Abd-al-Fattah Abu Zayd, vice president, and Fikri 'Abd-al-Qawi Hasan are to be transferred to the 29th circuit civil court [where they will serve as] members.

Seventh, Justices Kamal Husayn Mustafa Abu Husayn, chief justice of the court, and Muhammad Sami Najib are to be placed at the disposition of the court.

Eighth, this decree is to go into effect on the 1st of January 1984.

The Reason for the Decree

These changes that were made by decree arouse concern: the decree was issued [unilaterally] by the chief justice of the court, and it was not reviewed by the general assembly of justices, which was in session less than 1 week before the decree was issued. [The changes were made] because two of these circuit courts had heard the appeals filed by some of the prisoners who are members of religious societies. One of these two circuit courts was to hear the case about membership in al-Jihad Organization. Unless another strong and unexpected justification for this decree emerged after the last meeting of the general assembly, the matter of this decree is considered an infringement on the sanctity and independence of the courts, which must function independently in carrying out their mission without any intervention from any agency.

We have been informed that Attorney 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan intends to challenge the legality of the decree that was issued to effect those changes in the composition of Cairo's circuit courts of appeals.

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PROBLEMS, GOALS OF SUBSIDY SYSTEM CONSIDERED IN DETAIL.

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 783, 16 Jan 84 pp 23-25

[Article by Dr Mansur Fahmi: "Have the Subsidies Achieved Their Purpose?"]

[Text] The issue of subsidies is provoking a certain amount of argument and discussion today at various official and ordinary levels, and a number of opinions have emerged on this issue. One opinion demands that subsidies continue, because the overwhelming majority of the public that is involved in the area of consumer goods benefits from them, while another opinion demands that subsidies be abrogated because this policy, and its application, are factors which help reduce production qualitatively and quantitatively. The people who propound this opinion request that a cash allowance be given to consumers, on the basis of the number of people in their families and their social class, especially since people with high and middle incomes and merchants are benefitting from the subsidies. How, however, can one determine the value of the subsidies for the family?

What are the reasons on whose basis cash allowances will be given to one consumer to the exclusion of another? These are questions that require an answer which will of course lead us to answers that are more theoretical than realistic.

There is a third view which demands that subsidies be eliminated gradually, by following for a limited period a price policy concentrated on raising the price of the commodity while continuing to increase production at rates which will lead to a reduction in the cost per unit and consequently the sales price of the commodity to the consumer, and therefore there will be no justification for retaining and continuing the subsidization policy. This view is to be considered positive, but how is it to be applied? In other words, what are the commodities that this policy must comprise, and what is the amount of the desired reduction of the value of the subsidy and the time period in which that is to take place? What is the criterion, or criteria, through which one will be able to say that production has increased at a rate that will lead to a reduction in costs, so that it will be possible to abrogate subsidies totally?

Each of these three opinions has its benefits and flaws. In our opinion, the third view should be considered the most suitable one, but applying it will require alert management which will be able to increase production and reduce costs, and consequently eliminate subsidies. Although we have referred to that in previous parts of this report, we have found it necessary to deal with the subject of subsidies and pricing in some detail, in the manner shown below.

What Are Subsidies?

Subsidies express the difference between the costs of the units sold, be they goods or services, and the prices paid for them; the government resorts to defraying the difference between the price at which the commodity is sold to the public and its true sales price, in the form of subsidies which the producing companies receive in order to cover the costs of production if the sales price to the consumer is equal to or less than the cost of production, or in order to enable these companies to realize a small profit margin from the subsidized commodity it produces.

The government resorts to this in order to guarantee that the people in general obtain their requirements for these goods or services which the consumer cannot obtain on the basis of the price set by the forces of supply and demand in the market in accordance with the quotas the government specifies.

Different Types of Subsidies

There are three forms of subsidies:

1. Declared subsidies, whose cash value is specified in the general government budget. For example, subsidies of bread discs came to close to 800 million pounds or more in 1981-82.
2. Hidden subsidies, which are embodied in export subsidies. These appear in the area of foreign trade, in order to increase exports' ability to compete in the foreign market. An example are the subsidies on rice exported in the years prior to 1981-82.
3. Subsidies in kind, which are subsidies granted in the form of production subsidies. These enable public sector companies to continue producing or eliminate inevitable losses, as with the textile industry in Egypt over many years, for instance.

Why Subsidies?

The government has the objective of guaranteeing a suitable standard of living for the people, and this standard is realized in the context of the availability of essential commodities at least for all the classes of the people. Since the problem of the shortage and inadequacy of production as far as most consumer goods are concerned (a phenomenon which is clear to all of us now) has taken the form of a rise in prices which the overwhelming majority cannot cope with, in light of their current incomes, it has been

necessary that the government intervene to subsidize these goods, whose availability for all the classes of the people, especially the toiling classes, will be ensured, aside from following a stable pricing policy which will at least be able to cope with the ill effects of the inflation that is now dominating most of the economies in the world.

Has Subsidization Policy Realized the Purpose at Which It Was Aimed?

In reality, the answer to this question lies in learning the opinion of the people benefiting from subsidies in the first place. Therefore the investigation has placed emphasis on the study of the conclusions of two important studies. The first was a study made on subsidies, also at the expense of the Chamber of Commerce in Cairo; this study was made in February 1982.

The second is the present field study, which concerns conceptions on consumption in the city of Greater Cairo. Herewith are the conclusions of the two studies.

The First Study: Subsidies

The most important conclusions: although the investigation described some of the advantages connected to subsidies (such as the redistribution of incomes among groups, one of whose results has been the shift of incomes from the affluent to the nonaffluent), it concentrated on the negative effects which have limited the attainment of the satisfactory results envisaged. Among these effects are the following:

1. The failure to realize the basic benefit from subsidies, which is the distribution of income from the affluent to the nonaffluent, since the rich classes have benefitted to the same extent as the limited income classes.
2. The poor distribution process, the flight of subsidized goods to the black market, and consequently the rise in their prices and the realization of profits for the middle class and the merchants dealing in that market.
3. Subsidy policy's contribution to increased inflation as a result of the increased issuance of money (financing the budget by a deficit), which has not been matched by a corresponding amount of goods and services.
4. The inability of subsidies to enable public sector companies to achieve the volume of production individuals require, which has led the private sector to enter into alternative production of subsidized goods, sell them at the price it imposes, and realize abundant profits.
5. Subsidies have led some companies to rely on the government to make up their losses and one result of that has been a decline in production and poor quality of production.
6. There is no doubt that the subsidization of some goods has led to an increase in their consumption. On top of that some of them have been diverted to the production of other goods and their sale at above the subsidized price.

The study presented striking recommendations, most of which concerned guiding consumption, increasing production, determining who is entitled to subsidies and distributing them in a positive manner to the people who are entitled to them.

The Second Study: Consumption in Egypt

This study dealt with the development of consumption in foodstuffs in the second half of the seventies and the early eighties.

By comparing the actual per capita share of food consumption with the components of balanced diet which nutrition scientists consider people must have in order to enjoy good health, the following results were discovered: the individual in Egypt receives more than is recommended in grain, starch and roots of leafy foods, as well as corn and beans, as the Egyptian diet contains high proportions of these.

The per capita share of meat, poultry, fish and eggs is severely deficient, reflecting the absence of a preventive diet.

The per capita share of milk and milk products is very much below the recommended level, since the per capital share of milk is considered a criterion of welfare.

A high per capita share of fruit and vegetables; one should observe that the averages do not reflect the losses in the marketing and distribution process.

The per capita share of sugar and sugar materials is below the recommended level, which is compensated for by fruit consumption. The researchers, on the basis of this background regarding consumption in Egypt, have proceeded to address themselves to areas of aid and guidance in the current study, which dealt with the following subjects:

The Basic Principles for Predicting the Style of Consumption

In the study, the different aspects of the demographic, economic and social structure were reviewed.

The subject of the family budget was reviewed through a sample in the light of international indices, comparative tests, results, and studies benefiting from family budget research which the Central General Mobilization and Statistics Agency carries out.

The results of the family budget in Egypt showed increased consumption and a lack of regularity in pattern, or an absence of an agreed upon, purposeful pattern by which to function. In addition, the course of the consumption pattern in Egypt is essentially not affected by income as an element which guides spending; rather, it is affected by other factors which are lacking in a relationship between savings and investment, and indeed on many occasions obstruct the depth of the productive structure's absorption of credit facilities which the domestic economy needs.

From this review, the researchers produced three variables which they considered could help them develop a conception of the consumption pattern, if only in preliminary fashion. They defined these as follows:

Some general manifestations of extravagance and loss and their effect on the guidance of consumption.

Factors affecting consumer demand.

The need to conduct field tests with the goal of conveying the consumer's conception of what he means by the consumption pattern.

Methods of Helping To Guide Consumption

The guidance of consumption is a national objective, and it is possible to follow a group of methods which will help in the guidance of consumption, which are embodied in the following:

First, some methods which will help create a rapid, short-term solution and others which are a radical remedy having long-range effects:

A. The design of packaging, wrapping, shipping, storing and preserving techniques which will reduce production costs and enable the goods to reach the market.

B. Attention to periodic maintenance in order to reduce the deterioration of capital goods and cope with excessive consumption.

C. The guidance of subsidies so that they will reach the people who are entitled to them, while gradually reducing them in a manner which is connected to a gradual rise in the income level.

D. Increases in taxes imposed on the sales of luxury goods in a manner that is in keeping with the degree of the discretionary nature of the goods.

E. The redesign of the sales style and unit in packages which are in keeping in their size with the numbers of people in various families.

F. The formation of people's and government agencies which will be in charge of overseeing different aspects of excessive consumption and providing periodic reports.

G. Reviewing pricing and determining suitable profit margins, while maintaining quality standards and specifications for all goods.

H. Increasing mass awareness through media programs and following up on the guidance process by studying the environment and highlighting problems that arise from excessive consumption.

Second, it is possible to offer the following recommendations:

1. Correcting consumption patterns that are not wholesome and seeking to prepare an Egyptian diet which will lead to satisfying basic food needs.

2. Providing food alternatives in the case of foodstuffs and essential commodities (fish and poultry instead of meat and soybeans instead of lentils).

3. Reviewing the crop structure and expanding the cycle in order to cope with the growth in population and the population's increasing need for leguminous and oil crops, and realizing self-sufficiency as far as possible.

4. Adopting effective ways and means to benefit from the positive aspect of labor in Egypt, as follows:

A. Increasing the workforce. The workforce in Egypt is still around 28.5 percent [of the total] while it now totals 53.5 percent in the advanced countries. The significance in increasing the number of individuals in the workforce while establishing productive job opportunities is that production increases at least as much as the workforce.

B. Changing the structure of the workforce. The workforce in Egypt includes unskilled labor.

C. Reducing the negative features of work, for example, in the form of absolute and disguised unemployment, and eliminating unproductive habits and locations.

D. Restructuring the channels related to building up human beings in a production line fashion, for instance establishing a system of education which will offer specialists to society and avoid the pursuit of science for its own sake, offering society services that are studied on economic bases and abandoning the system of sovereignty.

E. It is also possible to set out rules which will reduce the loss in workforce production, as follows:

Vehicles for [commuting to] work and the commencement of work half an hour before the official time.

Preparations to end work when it actually officially ends.

Locating service units as close as possible to workers and work units.

Locating units for changing clothes and toilets where possible [in] production halls in suitable numbers.

Locating a restaurant and cafeteria close to the sites of the performance of the work.

Dealing with the matter of the overwork of occupational workers through their efforts off the job and their fatigue on the job.

Eliminating frequent absenteeism to attend general demonstrations, once the workers are present at the worksites.

Reducing absenteeism to perform duties of condolences, except in the narrowest limits, and scheduling those outside official work hours whenever possible.

Reducing amateurism for athletic contests, except within the narrowest limits, and scheduling those outside official work hours whenever possible.

Setting out rules to limit visits during work hours.

Regulating food, drink and rest period hours.

The housing shortage and its effects.

The transportation shortage and its effects.

A review of the incentive system.

Revision of working hours, turning the days of work into five [per week].

Revision of work in service agencies, turning some of those into afternoons and evenings (the experiment in the banks).

Setting out rules on telephone conversations.

Eliminating conflicts in legislation.

Providing spiritual and material locations for workers.

Reviewing administrative laws, bills and statutes.

Amending and providing guidance on undesirable habits in society.

Third, the condition that in addition to the foregoing the effort be made to mobilize and encourage savings, which will be done as follows:

1. Reviewing interest rates to encourage savings and opening investment opportunities to citizens of modest means and people with low incomes.
2. Reactivating the money market (the purchase and sale of stocks and bonds).
3. Improving the formula for popular development, which is based on individual savings and self-motivation. To this end it is necessary that attention be focussed on the mobilization of savings (especially small savings) so that citizens will not orient themselves toward consumption (as a result of the lack of availability of information on investment opportunities for them). There is no doubt that as a result of the mobilization of savings through popular development, the following can be achieved:
 - A. The mobilization of domestic savings.
 - B. The limitation of consumption.
 - C. The strengthening of the spirit of affiliation in the society.

SYMPOSIUM OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW SUBSIDY POLICIES

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 783, 16 Jan 84 pp 30, 31

[Article by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Manawi: "A Symposium on Colored Cards and the New Subsidy System"]

[Text] Had the two principles of getting subsidies to the people who are entitled to them and guiding subsidies remained confined to talk, and stopped at the limit of mere hopes, or at least goals that more closely resembled hopes, they would not have stirred up controversy, and would not have taken the time and effort of everyone who was opposed to them or supported them, in the attempt to win one another over to their viewpoint. That is what happened when the government, not a short time ago, began to talk about subsidies and their effect in burdening the government budget and harming the development plan. After a period, it moved over from the stage of making references to the damages of subsidies to the stage of adopting actual decisions for the sake of reducing them. This approach by the government did not receive much (or any) positive reception from the masses. Perhaps the events of January 1977 will stand as proof of that.

The latest of the government's innovations on its road toward reducing subsidies and attempting to get them to the people entitled to them has been the special supply card system, which involves dividing society into two sectors, one of which has total subsidies, and possesses green cards, while the other, consisting of 12 categories which the Ministry of Supply has spelled out, has partial subsidies, and possesses red cards.

This new system has prompted many questions and doubts on the degree to which this new system is effective, and the size of the income to be earned from applying it. It has also provoked a fear that the application of this new system will lead to a rise in the prices of all other commodities in a manner where it will be difficult to control the structure of prices in the market in general.

On this subject, the economics branch in the Commercial Workers' Union held a symposium under the title "Colored Cards and the New Subsidy System." Taking part in it were 'Izz-al-Din al-Wakil, the deputy minister of finance, Muhammad Subhi al-Itraybi, chairman of the Central Planning Department in

the Ministry of Supply, 'Umar ibn al-Khattab from al-Minya University, Dr Karimah Karim, the rapporteur of the cultural committee of the economics branch in the Commercial Workers' Union, and Dr Jawdah 'Abd-al-Khaliq, professor of economics at Cairo University.

The symposium began with a statement by 'Izz-al-Din al-Wakil, the deputy minister of finance, in which he dealt with the notion of subsidies and made a distinction among three types of subsidies, direct subsidies, indirect subsidies, and implied subsidies. He dealt with the differences among these three types in some detail, although the conception of the third type, implied subsidies, and the degree to which it should be considered a form of subsidy were the subject of controversy.

After that, the deputy minister of finance then addressed himself to the development of subsidies in Egypt, from the time they started at 6 million pounds, then rose to 9 million in 1961, until they came to more than 2 billion in 1982. He asserted that the issue of guiding subsidies heads the list of priorities in government economic policy, in the sense that the people who are not entitled to subsidies should be deprived of them, and they should get to the people who are truly entitled to them. This will be done in two steps: first, it should be determined who is entitled to subsidies and who is not, and, second, the subsidies should be conveyed to the people who are entitled to them.

Then Subhi al-Itaybi, chairman of the Central Planning Department of the Ministry of Planning, dealt with the ministry's mission of guiding subsidies and its constant attempts in the search to define the groups that are and are not entitled to subsidies. He reviewed the ministerial decrees issued in this regard, which identify 12 groups that are not entitled to subsidies in full and therefore receive red cards.

He added that the rate of anticipated savings will be about 300 million pounds in the 1983-84 budget, since the allotment to subsidies in the budget is about 1.7 billion pounds, as compared with 2.04 billion pounds last year.

The deputy minister of finance commented on that by saying that this drop would come about as a result of two causes, first the drop in world prices and second the attempts to guide subsidies.

Subsidies and the Masses

This was the point of view of the government. Its goal in the new system is to alleviate the burden on the government. What, however, is the position of the people, those with the real interests, regarding all changes or economic measures? The National Center for Social and Criminal Research carried out an opinion poll to learn about public opinion trends toward the issue of subsidies. One can say that this study reached results which might be surprising, and, in some cases, different from what many people expect.

'Umar ibn al-Khattab from the University of al-Minya presented this study, in which, at the beginning, he offered a summary on the aggravation and accumulation of the problem of subsidies, then dealt with the dimensions of the development of the problem of subsidies, defining five basic points:

1. The Egyptian citizen spends a great deal on his food.
2. Subsidized commodities represent a large proportion of the spending he allocates to food.
3. The elimination of subsidies will lead to a rise in [the prices of] many goods and services.
4. Subsidies entail the distribution of domestic income, and, in the event subsidies are eliminated or reduced, that will have an effect on real incomes.
5. A great increase in the size of subsidies since 1975.

After that, he then dealt with the trends in the research based on the poll on the issue of subsidies. This took two directions:

1. The evaluation of the policy of subsidies.
2. The discussion of alternatives and proposed solutions.

The results of the study following the opinion poll were as follows:

Unanimity among the people in the sample that it was necessary that the government continue the policy of subsidizing basic commodities and refuse to reduce the subsidies, even if the reduction were for development purposes.

Seventy-five percent of the sample asserted that the subsidies do not reach the people who are really entitled to them.

Ninety-five percent of the people in the sample benefit from subsidized goods.

Ninety-seven percent are opposed to increasing prices while raising wages, that is, they reject the notion that subsidies in kind should be eliminated and converted to cash subsidies.

Some people in the sample recommended that the distribution of subsidies be regulated by monthly coupons or the establishment of new societies.

Do Not Tamper with Bread

Dr Karimah Karim presented research work she had carried out on the effects of the elimination of the subsidies on 11 commodities on family incomes. She defined these commodities as follows: wheat, bread, flour, fava beans, lentils, oil, sugar, frozen meat, fish and tea. She found that 52 percent of families spend from 22 to 48 percent of their total consumer spending on these commodities, which are subsidized.

In the event the subsidies on these commodities were removed, their prices would rise by a minimum of 73 percent [in the case of] oil and with meat by

a maximum of 761 percent, and the price of bread discs would rise by 470 percent. These figures confirm the importance and the status of subsidies in Egyptian family spending.

She then went on to talk about the new system, which she considered to be a positive step, since the system differentiated between the affluent and non-affluent by guiding subsidies to function as the subsidization of individuals. There are two goals to this new system. The first is to reduce the burden on the government budget and the second is not to infringe on the cost of living of people with limited incomes.

Dr Karimah wondered whether or not these two goals would be met. She replied that that depended on the way in which the Ministry of Supply and Finance treated foodstuffs and non-food commodities outside the cards. There were two recommendations one could present in this area.

The first was that the subsidies on these commodities should remain as they were, in which case the special goal of reducing the burden on the government budget would be realized to a limited degree. The second goal, of not infringing on the expenses of people with limited incomes, would be realized to a large degree because it would not cause any damage to the structure of prices outside the cards.

The second assumption is that subsidies on commodities outside the cards would be eliminated, which is the approach of the Ministry of Supply, as Dr Karimah said. In that case, the objective of reducing the burden on the government budget would be largely realized, but the goal would not be realized in the case of people with limited incomes because in that case the prices would rise in three basic ways. First, the removal of subsidies on commodities would raise their prices by more than the volume of the subsidies themselves.

Second, the prices of commodities that enter into final products as intermediate commodities would also rise.

Third, many of the prices of goods and services offered by the private sector would rise, because of the rise in the costs of living.

Dr Karimah considered that the new system is a positive step, but in order to reduce the negative features it would be necessary to apply it in stages. The first would be through the distribution of cards, while retaining the other prices outside the cards. In the following stages, subsidies would gradually be removed from other commodities, while the important commodities on which the subsidies would be removed outside the cards would be added to the green cards. This would be accompanied by a gradual increase in salaries, with an expansion in the base of commodities covered by the cards.

Dr Karimah requested that the new system not infringe on bread, because that is the basis of food for people with limited incomes.

BILL MAKING MENA PART OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR CONDEMNED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Jan 84 p 7

[Article by Salah Muntasir: "A Mere Opinion about the Middle East News Agency"]

[Text] This is a case that has to do with part of the press corps. And why shouldn't it be the subject for today? A few days ago a fellow correspondent at the Middle East News Agency (MENA) called and asked me to write a column in support of all fellow journalists at the agency. Mr Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information had drafted a decree requiring the independent character of the agency to be changed and the agency turned into a department subordinate to the minister of information. It would thus become like all departments in the ministry. Eventually this would entail that more than 300 colleagues at the agency would lose their status as journalists and become ordinary civil servants.

I was told that the decree was being drafted because Mr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawwad, chief of the agency, will reach the age of retirement next February 9. I was told that the draft decree constituted a plan that would allow him to sidestep the Press Law which prohibits anyone who reaches the age of 60 to hold a leadership position.

It is obvious that believing such statements is tempting. That was perhaps why the first question I asked Mr Safwat al-Sharif when I met him 2 days ago was a question about that matter. If we journalists cannot find out the truth from him, who else would tell us? I admit that Safwat al-Sharif--and I will attest to that for the record--did not hesitate for a moment in answering my question. He told me more than I thought he would, and he explained the following points:

1. So far no bill has been drafted and not a single step has been taken to bring that plan which is being discussed closer to reality. Questions about that may be directed to the Press Union, the Supreme Council for the Press or any agency related to the press.

2. Contrary to what some people may believe, turning the agency into an organization subordinate to the Ministry of Information cannot possibly benefit the agency's present chief, Mr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawwad. This is because assuming the Press Law could make it possible for Mr 'Abd-al-Jawwad to be employed at the agency in a non-leadership position after his retirement, he would not be able to work there in any position after he reaches the age of 60 if the agency becomes an organization subordinate to the ministry.

3. What is true is that some thought is being given to shoring up the Middle East News Agency so it can complete its major projects, among which are one to complete the agency's building and another to open foreign offices. Appropriations required for such projects are considerable. In the context of that objective many ideas are being proposed, as they would be in many issues where duty dictates that [any action] be preceded by adequate consideration of various ideas. However, turning the agency into an organization [subordinate to the ministry] is not one of the ideas getting close or little consideration.

To the colleague who asked me to write a column supporting her and her colleagues' position, [I would say] that I hope I have done my duty in clarifying the matter. I hope my explanation has extinguished a spark that should not grow into a fire.

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WAFD'S VIEWS ON DOMESTIC, REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 22 Nov 83 p 3

[Interview with Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, leader of the New Wafd Party by Muhammad 'Abdallah, in Cairo: "Political Report from Cairo: What Does the New Wafd Party in Egypt Want? No Turning Away from Socialism, Republic System, Public Liberties"]

[Text] The Supreme Executive Committee of the New Wafd Party in Egypt has decided to enter the parliamentary elections for the People's Assembly next April. The committee decided to publish a weekly newspaper to articulate the party's policy; to set up a main office for the party and branch offices throughout Egypt; and to accept new members who wish to join the party.

All these decisions were made after the party resumed its political role pursuant to a court ruling and despite the fact that the government is challenging that ruling.

The return of the New Wafd Party has had a strong impact on the ruling National Democratic Party, and opposition parties are reconsidering [their situation].

There is no doubt about the fact that the New Wafd Party is the most popular party in Egypt's political mainstream. The party's mass appeal is considerable and attributable to its lengthy history. Before its activities were suspended in 1978, membership in the party had exceeded 1 million.

In its new form the party's members include a group of university professors, members of trade unions and self-employed professionals. The party has attracted a large number of young people. Today, the questions that are being raised on the political scene in Egypt are [as follows]:

--What does the New Wafd Party want?

--Will the Wafd Party win a majority and form the next government?

--What are the principal objectives for which the Wafd Party is working?

There is no doubt about the fact that the Wafd Party is trying to get a majority. It is for this reason that the party is calling for a neutral government and for guarantees that the government will not intervene and influence the coming elections.

Party leader, Fu'ad Siraj al-Din thinks that Egypt is now going through one of the most critical periods of its life. That fact makes it incumbent upon every Egyptian to do everything he can to serve Egypt by contributing all the ideas, opinions and actions he can.

The party declares unequivocally and clearly that the inspiration for its program comes from the pulse of the masses. This program, which is deemed to be above arousing the passions of the public or toying with their feelings, is free from rhetorical statements and glittering slogans. The party is rather reaching out to everyone in the public in an attempt to reach the people's hearts, sense their feelings and find out what are their demands and their hopes.

According to its leader the New Wafd Party believes that political activity involves making sacrifices and giving of oneself. "Anyone who applies for work in public service has [to practice] self-denial, and he has to make contributions freely without expecting a reward. Accordingly, the party disapproves of political activities that are paid for or activities that are carried out by people seeking gain or privileges."

The First Objective

Party leader, Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din thinks that the Egyptian citizen is the first objective and the starting point of the New Wafd Party's program. Egypt's ailments as well as its hopes and prayers lie with the Egyptian citizen. The Egyptian citizen has almost turned into a wreck. But that is not due to a defect in his basic makeup, nor is it due to an abnormality in his nature. It is rather due to the harsh circumstances to which he has been subjected. It is these circumstances that turned the Egyptian into a passive person who does not care about public matters and does not concern himself with them. In fact, it is these harsh circumstances that caused the Egyptian to lose confidence in himself and in everything around him: his present and his future.

It is for this reason that the party believes that true reform ought to begin with the Egyptian citizen so he can regain confidence in himself and in those who govern him. The Egyptian citizen can then resume his former way of life: he can work, produce and become totally absorbed in serving his country. The step that has to be taken in this regard is that of acquainting the citizen with all the facts: the good and the bad. The Egyptian citizen can then go on from there fearlessly, discussing matters with whoever is in power and questioning him if he deviates from the proper course.

The party believes in the supremacy of the law. It believes that compliance with the provisions of the law is required and that respect for the law from all citizens without discrimination should be enjoined. No one is to escape from the law regardless of his official position or social standing.

The Threat

The New Wafd Party warns that a continuing large discrepancy, one which exists at present, between the standard of higher incomes and that of lower incomes presents a serious threat to the security of society. Even those who can afford to live comfortably will not be able to do so, nor will their lives be secure unless

society ensures that the toiling masses living on fixed incomes, have the minimum requirements for a decent life.

The leader of the party affirms that the New Wafd Party is not a born-again version of the old party. Those parties that existed in the past carried out their mission and played their roles in a previous stage of history. They constitute chapters in the political history of [our] beloved country. The new party, [however], looks to the future; it leaves the past behind, with its good and its evil, for the judgment of history.

The party affirms its adherence to the values, principles and ideas that emerged in people's minds; these values, principles and ideas are manifested in a socialist democracy. The party affirms its adherence to all the principles involved in such a system. These principles are those of the supremacy of the law, national unity, social peace and all public liberties. [They include] ensuring the rights of the toiling classes--workers, farmers and others--and trying to enhance and increase those liberties.

Liberties and the Constitution

[Question] What is the party's attitude toward [public] liberties and the present constitution?

[Answer] The [party's] program has emphasized the party's wish to mention liberties [even] before the constitution to call attention to the fact that a constitution without liberties is worthless. The only reason why constitutions are issued, and the only reason why nations struggled for those constitutions one generation after the other was to ensure that citizens have all their rights and liberties. Constitutions are proclaimed to bring about the separation of powers, to determine the jurisdictions of each power, to prevent despotism and to forestall the domination of one power by another.

Therefore, the party is calling for increased support for public rights and public liberties. Chief among the party's demands is a demand for personal liberty and for the freedom to speak one's mind. This increased support can be shown by instilling deep into the national conscience and into the hearts of rulers and subjects those noble principles and notions that are mentioned in the World Declaration of Human rights and in other supplementary international treaties and documents. It can be shown by enacting laws and by taking all other measures to ensure that these rights and liberties are honored and protected in a manner that makes them invulnerable to any tampering or attack. Increased support for public rights and public liberties can also be shown by terminating every law or administrative procedure that conflicts with those rights and liberties.

The party calls attention to the text of Article 57 of the existing constitution which states that any violation of personal liberty or any other public right or liberty constitutes a crime for which there is no statute of limitations regarding any criminal or civil liability that may arise therefrom.

The party thinks, nevertheless, that this text is useless unless it is linked with a collective determination to take to court without any hesitation anyone who conspires against these public rights and liberties. Regardless of their standing or their positions, people who conspire against public rights and liberties

are to be dealt with according to the stern letter of the law so that tragedies such as those whose horrors citizens have endured will not recur. The effects and bitter memories of these tragedies are still haunting citizens. By the way, the party thinks that a scrupulous and comprehensive investigation must be conducted into the reasons and factors that led some state agencies before the Corrective Movement to turn into tools of terror and torture. The party also thinks it is necessary that high-level judicial committees be formed to expose those who were responsible for crimes and grievous mistakes in the course of managing the affairs of government in the previous period. These judicial committees would also expose the large acts of corruption that were committed [such as] embezzlement, bribery, abuse of influence and smuggling funds abroad. The committees would question those who committed such acts, and they would recover the people's property.

Amending the Constitution

[As party leader I] affirm that the party did declare that it will honor the present constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt even though that constitution was not issued by a national constituent assembly. The party declared it will honor the constitution after the people ratified it in the general referendum of 11 September 1976.

Constitutions, nevertheless, are not carved in concrete, nor are they sacred texts that do not lend themselves to discussion. In fact, a constitution [is a document] that has to change with time, with events and with the society's requirements if it is to be stable and yield its best results.

Therefore, the party intends to call for amendments to the existing constitution. These amendments, which would be carried out in the manner provided for in the constitution, would correct some constitutional provisions, remove constitutional ambiguities and bring about a larger measure of balance between the executive and legislative powers. These amendments would firmly establish the rule that ministries are accountable to the People's Assembly. They would prevent any abuse of those powers that are granted to those ministries, and they would try to enhance a constitutional spirit and those constitutional traditions that are praiseworthy. This would be done on the basis of having a government by the majority while enabling the opposition to express its opinion. The right to give advice and to engage in constructive criticism is to be exercised quite freely since exercising that right in the face of government is considered a basic cornerstone in the makeup of a sound democratic system.

The Components Remain

The New Wafd Party affirms in countering the vicious attack that is being launched against it, that there can be no change in the conditions, notions and principles that have become entrenched in the people's hearts. These have become the principal features of the components of Egypt's new society. There can be no turning away under any circumstances from a republican system. There can be no turning away from socialism as a social, economic and policy system. Socialism, though, is to be freed from the contamination of ideas that are alien to our society. In the past these ideas had attached themselves to our society, spoiling it and deflecting it from its noble objectives. Therefore, in order for

our socialism, which stems from our circumstances and our society, to be a democratic socialism, its purpose has to be to realize social justice and create a society that is free from exploitation. Our democratic socialism has to create a society wherein class differences would disappear and affection among people would rein and replace the class struggle. Our democratic socialism has to create a society wherein the public sector and the private sector would cooperate with each other in the process of economic development to achieve more prosperity and stability.

The party also believes that there can be no turning away from agrarian reform laws and from laws limiting land ownership. There can also be no turning away from the social, economic and financial gains that were realized for the toiling classes of farmers and workers. The party thinks that these gains constitute the established rights of those people and that no thought may be given to taking away those rights.

Changing the Presidential System

The New Wafd Party thinks that changing the present presidential system to a parliamentary system would bring about more balance and cooperation between the executive and legislative powers. This would spare the state the flaws of a presidential system that is founded basically on concentrating power with the head of state at a time when governing has become an arduous and a complex task whose burden is too heavy for any one person to bear, regardless of his capabilities and competence.

The party also thinks that the manner in which a president is chosen, as stipulated in Article 76 of the constitution, must be amended. The president must be chosen by popular, direct vote in free elections in which more than one presidential candidate would run. At the present time there is only one presidential candidate, and he is chosen by the People's Assembly which declares him a presidential candidate. The people then vote on that candidate in a public referendum. Although a referendum about a single candidate may be somewhat acceptable in a totalitarian system of government or in a system wherein there is a single political organization and no place for other opinions or for multiple candidates, such a system is no longer acceptable in a multi-party system. Each party would have the right to nominate its own chosen presidential candidate. This is the case in democratic systems. It stems from the principle that citizens have equal rights and responsibilities, including the right to be candidates for public office in the state, and that includes the office of the president.

The party also thinks that a vice president is to be chosen in the same way, that is by popular vote, since he takes the place of the president in the president's absence or when the president is temporarily unable to assume the duties of his office. There would be no objection then to a popularly elected vice president serving the rest of a president's term, if the office of the president becomes vacant for any reason. This is what is observed in the United States, for example, according to the U.S. constitution.

The Third Power

Since the judiciary is the third power in the state, the party thinks that completing the guarantees for the independence of the courts requires amending the

Judiciary Authority Act to provide the judiciary with more support and immunity. One of the changes that have to be made is one that would require the presidency of the Supreme Council of Judiciary Authorities to be held by a judge. This is contrary to what is stipulated in Article 173 of the Constitution which provides that the president of the republic is to preside over that judiciary body. This change [is necessary] to achieve the separation of powers.

The party is asking that the system of a public socialist prosecutor be abolished and that Islamic law be the proper source for laws in Egypt.

[Question] What is the party's position with regard to foreign policy?

[Answer] [I affirm] that Egypt has no interest in stirring up hostilities with either of the two superpowers. Maintaining balanced relations between Egypt and both the Soviet Union and the United States is the best means to avoid becoming involved in the conflict between these two superpowers. It is the best way to maintain a policy of positive neutrality and non-alignment, a policy we have adhered to on the basis of our facts, our circumstances and our resources. The number of supporters for this policy has been growing every year, even in Europe.

The party believes in a peace policy that is pursued in a realistic framework, and it believes in staying away from a policy of quarrelsome demagoguery. The party believes in going along with the open-door policy and avoiding a closed-door policy. The party also believes that the peaceful coexistence of the superpowers, particularly the two nuclear superpowers, is imperative for world peace. The party supports UN efforts to establish international peace and security and settle all international disputes peacefully without the use of force or the threat of force. The party supports efforts to check the arms race and to limit the proliferation of weapons that bring about total destruction. The party also supports [UN] efforts to consider some areas of the world, including the Middle East area and the Pacific Ocean area, areas where nuclear weapons would be banned.

The party also supports efforts that are being made inside the United Nations and outside that organization to establish a new world economic system in which differences between the wealthy, advanced countries and the poor, developing countries would be narrowed. Under that system the interests of the latter countries in disposing of primary materials and other products they produce at rewarding prices would be taken into consideration. Under that system the debts which poor, developing countries owe to the rich, advanced countries would be reduced. The burden of paying the installments and the interest on these loans has become more than the developing countries can tolerate.

The Arab Position

[Question] What is the party's position with regard to Arab policy?

[Answer] The party thinks that the charter of the Arab League, which was signed in March 1945 by 7 Arab countries only, is no longer a suitable document for holding together a regional organization which today includes all the Arab countries which span an area from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. In 37 years, which is how long the Arab League has been in existence, developments have occurred and new matters have arisen in our world and in the Arab world. These

developments and changes have altered previous conditions. We mention, [for example], the growing Soviet influence in the world; the spread of communism and its penetration of Asia, Africa and other parts of the globe; the shrinking influence of western colonial countries after their colonies got their independence; the birth of the Organization of African Unity [the OAU] in 1963; the growing influence of Third World countries, which are scattered throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, within the United Nations and particularly in the UN General Assembly; and, in addition, the expansion of Israel. All these changes urgently require a reconsideration of the charter of the Arab League so that closer ties between league members can be started and relations can be strengthened between this league and other international and regional organizations, such as the United Nations Organization, the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity. The charter of the Arab League needs to be reconsidered so that a higher level of coordination can be realized between the Arab League, its general secretariat and other specialized organizations, councils and professional associations that were founded around the league. The charter of the Arab League needs to be reconsidered so that the league's judicial system can be completed and an Arab court of justice as well as an Arab judicial board can be established to hear [cases] about human rights violations that occur in any one of the member countries. The charter of the league needs to be reconsidered so that an organized and a permanent Arab peace force can be established and the Mutual Defense and Collective Assurance Treaty that was signed in 1951 can be revived. The unity of the Arab peoples will continue to be the highest objective [for all Arabs]. This is not a new feeling; it is a feeling deeply rooted in the hearts of all Arabs, a feeling Arabs have had since the collapse of the Ottoman caliphate. This unity must spring from the people and spread to the governments; it is not to be imposed on the people by governments. Otherwise, that unity will break up just as the unity between Egypt and Syria did.

Since relations between peoples are affected by their interests, particularly those economic interests that bring people closer together, it shall be the responsibility of future generations to achieve that objective. [This is inevitable] even though it is the highest objective of the Arab nation to establish a major Arab federation that looks out on Asia, Europe and Africa; that has oil resources and other unlimited primary materials; holds the keys to the world energy crisis; and overlooks the most important strategic positions from Gibraltar to the Suez Canal and from Bab al-Mandab to the Straits of Hormuz.

The New Wafd Party affirms that it is regrettable that economic relations between Arab countries and foreign countries are much stronger than economic relations among the Arab countries [themselves]. Therefore, the party thinks that as a first step greater efforts must be made to achieve comprehensive Arab economic unity and to set up a Common Arab Market for all the countries of the league within a set period of time in the future. All obstacles toward that end must be removed.

The Economic Problem

According to the party's program, [I think] the economic problem is one of the major problems facing Egypt at the present stage, if it is not in fact the most major problem. The proportions of that problem are such that it has affected the

daily lives of the masses. The average individual senses this daily problem. He suffers from the fact that his income is low and from his inability to provide for his essential needs. The average person finds a great deal of difficulty in getting the food, clothing, medical treatment, housing and transportation he needs. The average person is having so much trouble that his daily life has become a continuous series of hardships and suffering.

The party thinks that one of the most important reasons for the economic problem is the weakness of the government administration. Bribery, mismanagement and indifference are widespread in government, and this reflects to a large degree on the standing of Egypt in both the Arab and international communities.

The [course of action] which the party thinks [should be adopted] to remedy this situation [includes] rebuilding the system of production; observing justice in distributing the fruits and burdens of development; and making direct progressive taxes one of the principal sources of state revenues.

The party believes in the economic open-door policy. It believes that Arab and foreign capital should be encouraged to invest and that it should be released from restrictions and impediments. It believes in trying to achieve a relationship between price levels inside the country and price levels abroad, and it believes in tightening controls on the market to prevent tampering with prices.

The party thinks that the laws which restricted land ownership and established agrarian reform are achieving their objective. They are realizing social justice, closing the difference separating the classes and encouraging the investment of capital in industry. The party affirms its commitment to the laws that limited land ownership and to the rights gained by the farmers who are benefiting from these laws.

The party believes that the public sector plays a principal role in Egypt's economic and social life. It believes that negative aspects and obstacles which impede the major functions of the public sector must be brought to an end.

The Wafd Party affirms that the Noble al-Azhar must be restored to its former state of being an Islamic university. Its courses, rules and methods of study must be changed to assure it the progress that is consistent with its ancient history and its notable position in the Islamic world. The shaykh of al-Azhar is to be chosen by a body of leading scholars, and there are to be no restrictions on his age. The shaykh of al-Azhar is to preside over al-Azhar University in its new position as an Islamic university. He would also preside over the Supreme Council for the Affairs of al-Azhar, and the Commission of Leading Scholars and Religious Institutes.

Now then, this is an outline of the objectives for which the New Wafd Party was founded.

The question is this: Will the party be able to carry out its objectives? Will it continue the course it is pursuing in the Egyptian political mainstream? This is what events in the next few days will tell after the Egyptian government challenged the court ruling which allowed the party to pursue its political activity.

VARIOUS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR NEW YEAR REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Dec 83 p 15

[Article by Sayyid Abu Dumah: "A Meeting, on the Eve of the New Year: Last Year's Gains and the Aspirations of the Year To Come"]

[Text] We will review the achievements of the past year in the realm of the call to Islam as we begin a new year where everyone aspires to further achievements which will bring about welfare and happiness for our country and our Islamic and Arab nation.

Dr Hamid Jami', secretary general of the higher council of al-Azhar, says:

"Major attention has been given in the area of memorization of the holy Koran, since 1.8 million pounds have been allocated and the awards to people doing the memorization have risen from 25 to 40 pounds per month during the year. The encouragement given them does not stop there; rather, a review is being made on providing them with annual bonuses.

"In addition, al-Azhar has not restricted itself to providing encouragement to persons memorizing the holy Koran but rather has decided to grant them a special exception when they are admitted to the al-Azhar institutes.

"In addition, the noble al-Azhar has striven to organize caravans for givers of sermons to make it easy to move to villages and hamlets and to facilitate these tasks for them. Abroad, it has been and still is sending scholars and givers of sermons to various areas of the world on all occasions, and there has been continuous development of these efforts.

"In the area of al-Azhar education, the expansion in the construction and annexation of the al-Azhar institutes is underway, the number of al-Azhar institutes now comes to 1,4000, including 115 new ones which have been incorporated into al-Azhar, and work is still underway on the construction and incorporation of further such institutes.

"The coming year, God willing, will witness a review of the study plan in al-Azhar institutes and courses in a manner which will lead to the preparation of religious scholars who can undertake the mission of the call to God with full awareness.

"For the first time, the holy Koran has been published on presses belonging to al-Azhar, which cost half a million dollars; the first printings of the holy Koran will be produced in a few days."

As regards the activity of the higher council of Islamic Affairs, Dr Jamal-al-Din Mahmud, secretary general of the council, said in 1983 the council directed its attention to an investigation and discussion of Islamic issues which have been presented on the Islamic stage. Through publications, it has shed light on numerous problems, such as the principles on which Moslem society must be founded, as well as the subject of the call to God and the means for effecting it. In addition, the council has established dozens of Islamic centers in mass areas, such as universities and major organizations. These come to about 220 centers and 240 Islamic libraries. The council is in charge of organizing lectures in these centers so that it will be possible to spread religious ideas about on a broad scale.

The council has also established symposia and participated in the intellectual discourse which is taking place to enlighten the masses, especially the masses of young people, in Islamic thinking.

In the realm of religious thinking, the council, in 1983, also worked to consolidate its contacts with Islamic societies abroad as regards the presentation of the facts of Islam and also to reply to material which might be published that conflicts with the facts and principles of Islam.

The number of grants the council offered to people throughout the world last year came to 980; it is expected that these will come to about 1,100 in 1984.

In the area of religious thinking in the Islamic Research Complex in al-Azhar, His Eminence Dr al-Husayni Hashim, the secretary general of the complex, said that close to 200 books written in foreign languages have been completed.

In addition, the council intends to help produce new Islamic booklets in various languages to introduce Islam.

A series of Islamic research works comes out every month, in addition to the books and studies issued last year by a number of thinkers and the work the complex is carrying out in the area of the call to Islam.

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ACTIVITIES OF SOCIAL WELFARE CENTERS REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Madihah al-Naharawi: "The Purpose of These Offices Is To Resolve the Anxieties of the Egyptian Family"]

[Text] The anxieties of the Egyptian family are now being brought to 65 offices, so that experts and specialists can resolve them. The offices bear the name of family counselling offices and their purpose is to remedy families' problems free of charge on carefully studied scientific bases, to protect families from breakups and to guarantee their cohesion and interconnection.

At the outset, Mrs Qut-al-Qulub Ahmad Wasfi, director general of the Family Care Department, said, "These offices are spread about in most of the governorates. In Cairo alone there are 13 offices in which experienced specialists are working to deal with delicate family situations in total secrecy. In each office there is a supervisory committee on which religious, psychological, legal and social figures are represented."

"These offices so far have studied about 8,383 cases that have been brought to them by individuals, courts, police stations and social units. Statistics show that 31.5 percent of all the cases involve individuals who presented themselves to the family counselling offices to deal with their problems and about 48.5 percent involve cases transferred from other bodies, 41.5 percent of which were transferred from the courts with the purpose of "amicably" resolving problems in order to preserve family bonds.

The reports state that the type of family problem presented varies from area to area. Problems of "expenses" occupied first place in the case of 32 percent of the total cases, most of which were transferred from the courts, while "marital conflicts" occupied second place, with 20 percent, and finally pre-marital problems, with 1 percent.

Problems of expenses came to 2,601 cases, marital disputes to 789 cases, economic problems 581 cases, family disputes 384, nursing and admissions, 193, and pre-marital problems 184, in addition to 144 diverse problems.

The fact is that the family counselling offices are not just suitable for solving problems, but also provide diverse services for the cases studied. They have

provided medical care for about 133 cases and school services for 399, have created work in productive families, training centers and so forth for about 582, and have offered financial assistance through winter help, social insurance, private boards and so forth for about 963 cases. That is, 2,087 cases involving people who have been presented to these offices have benefited from these services.

Mustafa al-Salmani, chairman of the Family Support Society in Cairo, says:

"The family counselling offices come to 65 in number, distributed throughout Cairo and the other governorates. These offices have the goal of supporting heads of families helping in the performance of certain functions, remedying the disputes that they are faced with, and providing guidance to people who visit these offices as a result of marital relations, means for selecting spouses, and the specifications that each party sets out in his appraisal and selection of the other party.

"In addition, psychological and social specialists are available to these offices to remedy certain psychological illnesses facing some individuals in these families, to bring about social reconciliation among the members of the families of both spouses, neighbors and friends and to prevent these parties from interfering to corrupt marital and family relations between the two spouses."

However, how do problems of this sort reach the offices, and how are they resolved?

Mrs 'Adalat Yusuf, director of the Family Guidance and Counselling Office, stated, "Most of the problems that come to the office from personal status courts are cases governing expenses. However, the relationship between the offices and the courts still is not linked by an organized law on conducting dealings, and it still depends on personal contact on the part of the office's representative in the court, who reads the records in which the order to solve their problems through the office. The fact is that the rate of success in arriving at a peaceful solution and reconciling the parties without returning to the judiciary come to just 10 percent, as a result of the delay in the arrival of these cases at the office; usually the parties to the dispute refuse to make peace and the divorce takes place in the court!

"Therefore we claim that it is necessary that a draft law on an agreement between the minister of [social] affairs and the minister of labor be prepared which will require that the cases are transferred automatically before the ruling, indeed before their review, to the family counselling offices, so that direct contact between the parties to the dispute within the family may be effected and the dispute resolved in amicable fashion!"

As regards the current problems of the Egyptian family, the marital disputes between men and working wives head the list of problems of people visiting family counselling offices. This may be attributed to a number of factors, most important of which, as social specialists state, may be attributed to:

1. The Egyptian husband's failure to understand the role of the working wife and the heavy responsibilities she bears outside the home at work, in addition to the burdens she bears inside the home, and the drudgery of housework, child upbringing and care, and her husband's demands, which she bears.
2. The Egyptian husband's insistence on adhering to his rights in full, his failure to agree to give up any of his demands, and his failure to help in the housework, and the family's intervention to prevent such help.
3. The wife's income and the problems that provokes.

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SOCIAL RESEARCH EXPERTS INVESTIGATE MEANS TO ENHANCE PEASANT INVOLVEMENT

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Iman Mustafa: "How Can the Egyptian Peasant Be Made To Participate in Government Projects?"]

[Text] The first scientific questionnaire distributed by National Center for Social and Criminal Research experts in the Egyptian villages has shown that the Egyptian peasant has the ability to take part in development activities through his own efforts, for instance repairing roads, filling in ponds, planting trees and all the projects the government recommends in the context of saving expenditures, on condition that he be won over to them and have confidence in their results!

The study which Dr 'Abd-al-Mun'im Shawqi and Dr Nabilah 'Abbas al-Shurbaji, researchers in the center, have prepared has proved that the Egyptian peasant is more knowledgeable and clever than many people image, and that he is more aware of his needs and circumstances than others, whatever they may think about their abilities.

The scientific study has observed a noteworthy phenomenon, which is that if circumstances compel the Egyptian peasant to carry out government orders in whose feasibility he is not convinced, he generally will pursue the strategy of Gandhi (attributed to Gandhi, the spiritual leader of India) in expressing his opinion, that is, passive resistance, which is embodied in trickery, claims of poverty, ignorance, forgetfulness, a lack of understanding, and extreme wariness!

The opinion questionnaire study also concentrated on research into the phenomenon of video sets which have invaded the countryside, in an effort to show their causes and consequences.

They made a number of visits to a number of coffee houses in the village of Usim of Giza Governorate, which makes extensive use of video sets.

The owners and patrons of coffee houses unanimously held that the reason for the use of video acts is to satisfy the needs viewers have as a consequence of suffering boredom over the quality of programs and movies, which are shown more than once, especially since when these films and programs are shown to them they have no choice among them; they ignore all direct guidance programs by boycotting them and using video sets.

The researchers observed that the majority of viewers are educated young people, that the video sets are turned on from noon until 1600 hours in the afternoon, with half an hour's rest between each movie, after which, from 1800 hours in the evening until midnight, they resume, and that the charge for going in to look at the video sets is 20 piasters on ordinary days and 25 piasters on holidays. People are shown the movies and plays they want, and the television sets are turned on only at specific times, to view Arabic serials, meetings with Shaykh Mitwalli al-Sha'rawi and soccer matches.

Aside from that, they prefer watching video sets to watching television on holidays, especially, when the receptivity of young people and children to frequenting coffee houses and watching videos increases.

Following a review of the dimensions of the subject of the spread of video sets in the countryside, as a significant point to establish a fact which this poll sought to establish, the two researchers arrived at a number of important conclusions, among them:

Total participation between the government and the peasants in making decisions bearing on peasants does not exist, and their lack of enthusiasm for the reform programs the government is carrying out has arisen from this. The peasant knows full well that these projects will serve not him but others, in the form of large landowners and inhabitants of towns.

The peasants have not been satisfied with these matters and have constantly resisted them through passive resistance, to the point where it has seemed to some people like a surrender to reality. This resistance has manifested itself recently in the phenomenon of the spread of video sets.

A lack of confidence among peasants in the government and its representatives as a result of the broad gap or the large distances between them has arisen from all the foregoing.

The two researchers then recommended that it was necessary that a change take place in rural society through the use of the integrated method of development, that is, in a manner which would guarantee the peasant's participation until the desired change was made.

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AGRICULTURAL BANK OFFICIALS DISCUSS INCREASING PEASANT SAVINGS, LOANS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hamid: "How Can Peasants' Savings Be Developed? Savings Leapt to 324 Million Pounds in 4 Years through the Village Banks"]

[Text] What has the experiment of savings among Egyptian peasants achieved in its short life? How have village banks managed to entice peasants to contribute to the success of this experiment? How was it possible to stimulate savings awareness among Egyptian peasants, so that they could realize a record figure, which at the end of 1983, came to 324 million pounds, in a period of no more than 4 years from the start of the experiment?

Officials assert that the steps which have been carried out in order to entice peasants to save have been 100 percent successful, and they expect that this figure will double in a short period, once new means are found to attract savings and the execution of the Islamic saving project, which will see the light of day soon, begins.

Through these savings media, the peasants will enter into investment projects rather than working by the traditional means, "merely as peasants," in order to help advance agricultural development and agricultural industrial projects and introduce mechanization as a necessary method which is in keeping with the era and remedies the problems they face, most important of which are the rise in labor wages and the scarcity of labor, in a manner which will ultimately realize a start in the process of agricultural concentration and advanced production.

What do agricultural financing and development experts say?

Mr Fathallah Rif'at, board chairman of the main agricultural development and credit bank, says, "The experience with saving in the village banks is not alien to the bank's activity. As long as it is arrived at development, that makes it mandatory that a kind of bank savings be present in it. The bank is the peasant's bank, and it exists for all of rural society, since for a long time it has been offering all services and loans to the peasant and has been spread about in hamlets which no kind of services reach, offering the peasant what he needs in order to increase production, putting all accessories suitable for farming in various seasons in his grasp, and offering fertilizer and so forth in order to bring about increased production and innovate advanced farming methods."

The board chairman of the bank added, "Experience with savings has proved to be a tangible success in its short life," the proof of that is that the volume of savings comes to 324 million pounds, of which 10 million pounds are current accounts, 149 million pounds are term deposits and 94 million pounds are savings booklets. The bank seeks to attract savings in various form by opening up new instruments as a plan which it has started to carry out with the aim of giving special importance to savings in consumption, then ultimately to realize the government's goal, which is aimed at developing savings in general in order to provide the financing necessary for development projects, as the Egyptian countryside asserts its existence in order to participate in this plan."

Citing examples of means for attracting savings, Mr Fathallah Rif'at said "Agricultural savings bonds have been issued with a par value of 5 years [sic] per bond, covering 2 periods, /the first/ of 5 years and the second of 3 years. We are now studying a plan to raise the par values of the bonds to 10, 50 and 100 pounds after all the issues have been completed."

He stressed that the system of savings booklets with premiums is now being applied. Regional premiums will be distributed in the context of each govern-orate bank and will be distributed twice a year. In the first stage, 29 premiums worth 2,400 pounds per drawing will be distributed, there will be a withdrawal and deposit unit totalling 10 pounds in these booklets, and every 10 pounds that are kept for 6 months in the booklets will earn a chance in the drawing. In the bank, and in the village banks, there also is another savings system which yields a return of 10 percent per year and the bank is constantly working to diversify the savings media to attract savings in order to bring the volume of savings to a volume with which it will be possible to rely on self financing in the bank's pursuit of its activities.

The board chairman said that the future of the experiment is bright and that the studies which a team of bank experts carried out have proved that it is a fertile field for savings, if it is possible to attract these by various means, especially with the increase in incomes resulting from numerous causes, including rising agricultural incomes and the migration of labor abroad, which has led to an increase in the standard of living, all of which has led to the existence of projects which did not previously exist in the countryside, such as tractor and vehicle maintenance workshops, carpentry workshops, environmental product factories, and so forth. It has been necessary to create savings facilities to attract these incomes.

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CSO: 4504/132

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION DENIED TELEVISION COVERAGE--At last week's People's Assembly meeting Hamdi Ahmad, the Labor Party's representative in the People's Assembly, protested the fact that television camera men ignored and did not record on camera the addresses that were delivered by opposition representatives. Independent representative Fikri al-Jazzar had the floor at that time. The producer, who was in the recording vehicle outside the assembly hall, declined to video-tape al-Jazzar, and the camera man ran out of the assembly hall immediately. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Dec 83 p 12] 8592

CSO: 4504/139

ROVING AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, REGIONAL ISSUES

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 83 p 3

[Interview with 'Umar Muhammad Yasin: "President Numayri Gradually Applying Islamic Shari'ah in Sudan;" date and place not specified]

[Text] The Sudanese envoy, 'Umar Muhammad Yasin, a roving ambassador in the Presidency office, spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after delivering a message from President Numayri to Shaqkh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, as part of a tour of the Gulf states to which he carries similar messages. He said that this Arab tour was preceded by an African tour within an intensified effort to explain Sudan's position on current Arab and African issues and the effects of this position on the Arab situation.

He said that the African tour included Chad, Guinea, Senegal, Niger, Togo, Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroun, and Central Africa. The Sudan also made contact with Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. He explained that this move aims at explaining Sudan's and President Numayri's point of view with respect to all issues and their effects on the Arab situation.

He emphasized that the situation in Chad has direct effects on Sudan more than on any other country. The Sudan supported the legitimate government (of Hissein Habre) which gained its legitimacy from international organizations, especially the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement in the United Nations. "It is a legitimate government by international standards" and what is happening in Chad at present is a clear violation of international covenants.

The Sudanese envoy demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces from Chad; he said that the presence of French forces in Chad was at the request of the legitimate government, and that, according to French officials, French troops will withdraw if asked to do so by the Habre government. He pointed out that the foreign military presence in Chad during the previous Oueddei government had caused great damage to the Sudan because of the shelling of Sudanese villages across the Chad borders.

The Sudanese envoy revealed the presence of a wider plan with help from the Soviet Union together with a neighboring country, which he did not name, against Sudan's unity. For all these reasons, said the envoy, we are

interested in events in Chad and in its security. He renewed Sudan's demand for withdrawal of French forces and for leaving the internal situation in Chad to the country's own forces. About Arab Africa relations, he said that Sudan plays an important role in keeping some African countries from resuming relations with Israel.

Arab African Relations

The envoy held responsible some African Arab countries for the resumption of relations with Israel by some African countries and said that these African Arab countries are pushing some African countries to resume relations with Israel, and Sudan, as always, condemns African relations with the Israeli enemy. He added that Sudan believes in the necessity of Arab economic, cultural, or any other presence in African countries, because the lack of presence sets these countries on the course of resuming relations with Israel. He explained the threat to internal security for some African Arab countries is what forces African countries to look for protection, perhaps from Israel.

About the establishment of relations between Egypt and Israel, and the use of that by African countries as an example for resuming relations with Israel, he said that the main reason is the interference by Arab countries in the internal security of some African countries and Egyptian-Israeli relations are used by African countries as an excuse. He confirmed that some African leaders have assured Sudan that they will not resume relations with Israel out of support for Arab-African solidarity.

For Lebanon's Unity

The Sudanese envoy expressed his country's hope that, by ending the irresponsible behavior by some African Arab countries towards some countries in Africa, the number of African countries that have resumed relations with Israel will not increase.

On the current situation in Lebanon, the Sudanese envoy confirmed that Sudan stands with Lebanon's unity against any partition, that the withdrawal of all foreign forces is a basic condition for realizing national unity, and that the Lebanese are best able to solve their own problems. He added that Sudan supports the cease-fire which came as a result of Saudi Arabian efforts.

He also confirmed Sudan's support of the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organization and that his country sees in the destruction of the PLO a destruction of Palestinian gains.

On the probable development of the Iraqi Iranian war, now in its 4th year, and the possible increase in Sudan's support to Iraq in its war with Iran, he said, "We supported Iraq in line with the decisions of the Arab Summit in Fez. This support was for Iraq's defense of its own territories and not intended as support against Iran. We wish for peace between the two countries and for ending bloodshed among Muslims."

The Arab Summit

About including the subject of Arab-African relations at the level of the next Arab summit, and whether the subject was included in the messages he carried to the Gulf states, he said: "The messages dealt with the situations in Africa and their effects on the Arab situation."

The Sudanese envoy refused to go into details on this subject and also refused to reveal whether his present tour aimed at gaining Arab support for inviting Egypt to the next Arab summit conference to be held in Riyadh. He said, "We support Egypt's return to Arab ranks." He also revealed Sudan's hope to convene a summit meeting to discuss and resolve all current Arab issues. He said that he sensed an Arab desire to convene the summit conference as scheduled during the coming month of November.

Enforcing the Shari'ah

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked the Sudanese envoy about the decision to enforce the Islamic Shariah in Sudan, as it came 14 years after the start of President Numayri's rule. Mr 'Umar Muhammad Yasin said that there were no political reasons or motives behind the decision to apply Islamic Shari'ah. The great consensus and support for President Numayri's decision and the gradual steps taken in enforcing the rules of Islamic Shari'at, confirm their soundness. These factors are stronger than external allegations and reactions which claim that there are internal political motives behind this step.

He mentioned that President Numayri started enforcing the Islamic Shari'at gradually by prohibiting usury and opening Islamic banks, such as the Faysal Islamic Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Bank and the Sudan Islamic Bank. He pointed to President Numayri's great campaign to get rid of \$10 million worth of alcoholic drinks in the Nile River.

"Bright Star" Military Exercises

When asked about the military exercises called "Bright Star" in which Sudan participated, and whether these will be followed by provision of facilities to American forces in Sudan, he replied that the Sudan will not provide facilities to American forces. The presence of "AWACS" planes and American forces in Sudan was part of the American forces required to carry out the "Bright Star" exercises along with Sudanese, Egyptian, and Somali forces. The presence of the "AWACS" planes and American forces is not related to the developments in Chad.

12284

CSO: 4504/78

CORRUPTION PROBLEMS TOPIC OF SEMINAR

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 83 p 3

[Article: "Seminar In Sudan Discusses 'How to Confront Corruption'"]

[Text] The Administrative Oversight Committee in the Sudanese People's Assembly held recently a seminar on the subject of corruption and the role of administrative oversight agencies in fighting corruption. The seminar dealt with many archaic laws used as a tool for corruptors and corruption, self-restraint as a weapon against corruption, popular control as an important element in confronting corruption, bribery as a crime punishable by law and religion, and smuggling as a crime which leads to draining the people's resources. The seminar also addressed the problem of emigration as a factor which has led to a different type of corruption and the problem of delinquency at work and its role in loss of productivity.

The seminar included representatives from the Sudanese Academy for Administrative Sciences, the Prosecutor General's office, State Security Service, General Administrative Inspection Agency, the General Council's office, the Sudanese Socialist Union, the observer of the People's Assembly, the media and the police.

All speakers in the seminar, which lasted 3 days, agreed on the presence of corruption in society, especially in the administrative and political systems, including some of their leaderships. All agreed on the need for firm resistance as a deterrent to corruption and corruptors in order to remove its traces from society.

The seminar was chaired by the head of the Administrative Inspection Agency, Mr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Umar, and introduced by the observer of the People's Assembly and chairman of the committee, Mr Ibrahim Hasan Idris.

In the seminar's discussions and working papers, the speakers dealt with corruption issues and problems, the reasons behind corruption and the means to confront it. The speakers also dealt with the phenomena of corruption which has been having a direct effect on the lives of people from their birth until their death. This was a result of the domination of people's resources by the bureaucratic power. Some speakers reached the conclusion that authoritarian rule may be among the reasons that lead to corruption,

although it is not the only reason. Although corruption is self-destructive in the long run, it makes things worse by wasting resources, delaying the process of change in the administrative system, widens the social gap among individuals and throws dark shadows over the ruling authority. This leads to delinquency and the destruction of morale by creating indifference and sarcasm among people while people mistake corruption for some of its symptoms, such as lack of capability, negligence and indifference.

In reality, corruption in society whether political or otherwise, reflects quickly on the civil service, or public service. No group restrains the others: the politicians are followed by the administrators, who in turn are followed by others, and so a whole ring of corruption and corruptors is formed.

Corruption...Its Types and Causes

There are several types of corruption. There is political corruption, which consists of falsifying elections, buying voters, fixing the results, selling government jobs, and influencing selection procedures through discrimination, favoritism, and protection.

There is law-related corruption, including not enforcing the law, partial law enforcement to frighten and terrorize victims, blocking legal procedures and bargaining on complaints.

There is money-related corruption, including failure to collect taxes, duties and permit fees and building contract dues; it also includes business related activities such as banking facilities, securities, commercial transactions, price fixing and others.

The seminar identified over 10 causes of corruption which can be summed up as bad leadership, ignorance, futility, poverty and colonialism as well as greed and scarcity.

Can Corruption Be Reformed

According to social scientists, corruption is a social disease, and its remedy is one of the foremost problems that occupy the minds of modern societies. Scientists say the failure of efforts by governments and societies to fight corruption is mostly due to ignorance about the corrupt persons psychology and non-treatment of his individual circumstances. Other scientists see the phenomenon of corruption as an evil, deep-rooted in the human spirit, and the only cure is by exemplary punishment of the guilty as a deterrent to others. Most social scientists consider corruption a disease which inflicts individuals as a result of their social environment and family situation, such as a broken family, poverty and misery, and also due to psychological and mental reasons.

The Public Prosecutor's paper explained that to treat corruption one must begin with the causes, and to reform the corrupt we must strive to reform society. Each society has its own circumstances and structure forming the

forces that organize social behavior and are the strong armor for the behavior of individuals. Foremost of all these social forces is religion, which influences directly and strongly the behavior of individuals. Even in the absence of oversight, an individual feels that God watches him and that he cannot hide from the eye of God. Therefore, the strengthening of religious belief reforms individuals and is a shield against corruption.

Corruption is like cancer, its cells multiplying in an organization and increasing quickly, sometimes appearing directly and sometimes disappearing.

The public prosecutor's paper pointed to frightening corruption crime figures, counting only cases brought to trial and excluding those which remain undiscovered, indicating serious defect requiring urgent action.

The paper reviewed satanic methods that the corrupt smugglers, accountants and employees use to conceal their crimes. Those crimes require constant watchfulness and intelligence to uncover them and bring them to court so that a punishment to serve as a deterrent can be handed out.

The paper called for the establishment of a "Public Properties Court" to try civil service crimes. The paper quoted from the Koran His saying: "In the law of equality, there is life to you, oh, ye men of understanding."

In its paper, the Administrative Oversight Committee of the People's Assembly listed the committee's accomplishments in uncovering dozens of cases that had bothered many people. It also presented some suggestions to make its decisions more positive and easier to implement, and pointed to two options: either permanent courts for corruption, or a special court created by the legal system for each case immediately after it is brought for trial.

The Seminar Issues a Set of Recommendations:

The seminar concluded its discussion of papers dealing with the problem of corruption by issuing a set of recommendations, the most important of which follow:

--Coordinating the efforts of educational, religious, and social institutions to formulate a specific strategy to enable each institution to participate in raising a generation which will bear its national responsibility and to plant the thoughts and values of religion in the nation's conscience.

--Solving the problem of hidden unemployment within the public services, and placing the right person in the right position by attracting honest and qualified leadership.

--Providing the Administrative Inspection Agency with powers to investigate procedures for hiring civil service employees and to pass immediate judgment in embezzlement cases with deterrent punishment, in addition to combating the causes of poverty, deprivation, scarcity, and injustice.

--Calling on all agencies to root out corruption.

12284

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LEADER OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY DISCUSSES PERSONAL BACKGROUND, PARTY'S PROGRAM

Tunis AL-MAGHRIB AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 83, 24 Dec 83 pp 62, 63

[Interview with Hafnaoui Amairia, Leader of Progressive Socialist Grouping by Mukhtar al-Tarifi: "Hafnaoui Amairia Tells AL-MAGHRIB AL-'ARABI Progressive Socialist Grouping Is not Restricted by an Ideological Authoritative Source"]

[Text] The birth of a new political movement in Tunisia was officially announced more than 1 week ago. This movement, the Progressive Socialist Grouping, [RSP] did exist on the scene before the official announcement of its birth was made. The national press had devoted attention to it when some of its activists were arrested early this year. Those activists were then involved in making preparations for the birth of a political movement "that would make up for the fact that the left had fallen on the sidelines and withdrawn into a shell. The left had been missing from the scene of political activity for the past 10 years."

That stage of preparation ended when a group of activists known to be affiliated with leftist ranks applied for a permit to form a political party. They made an announcement to that effect at a press conference they held on Tuesday, 13 December 1983. An announcement was made on the same occasion about the makeup of the political office of the Progressive Socialist Grouping. Mr Hafnaoui Amairia, with whom we conducted this interview, is one of the members of the political office.

[Question] Who is Hafnaoui Amairia?

[Answer] I am a native citizen from Gafsa. I went to secondary school in Tunisia, and I received my university education in Damascus and then in Paris. I am writing a dissertation on the ideological aspects of Renaissance Thought. I had a national experience during the sixties when I joined the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and then when I moved to France. I was particularly affected by the events of May 1968. I have a theoretical interest in Marxist positions, but that does not make me refrain from thinking about unity. These thoughts are reflected in my actions. I took part in forming committees to aid Palestine, and I gave up my membership in the Ba'th Party in September 1970 to protest the party's position on the Black September massacres.

I became involved in student and political activity, and I took part in forming the Popular Democratic Movement early in 1972. A faction of that movement evolved with a publication called AL-HAQIQAH [The Truth] which continued to be published till 1981. I also took part in establishing the 26 January Committee, and I was a

permanent member of the secretariat [of that committee]. In that capacity I participated in each rally and convention held in Paris and elsewhere. I believe that my political past is an integral whole. I support unity and democracy, and I am a socialist.

[Question] And what is the Progressive Socialist Grouping?

[Answer] In its present form it is an initiative that is being carried out by a group of progressive activists following deliberations about the principle of public political action under present circumstances. These activists deliberated about the meaning and the direction of this action. Actually, it was my wish that I not participate early in the deliberations. Then an agreement was reached on political grounds. That agreement was included in the political statement that was announced at the press conference we held on 13 December 1983.

The Grouping is directing its appeal to a large multitude of progressive Tunisians who oppose the existing political and social situation. Their opposition is based on ideological and political premises that speak to the interests of popular classes and groups. These progressive Tunisians do not find that other political organizations express their wishes. Actually, the Grouping is characterized by the fact that it constitutes the opposition of the new left. That opposition is based on new principles. The Grouping is turning to a new generation [of Tunisians] and away from the classifications and divisions which the Destourian Party has known at turning points in its history, such as those in 1969, 1971 and at other times. The group that founded the Socialist Grouping does not reflect essential or profound differences within the Grouping despite some differences in theoretical premises. These are differences about the adoption of Marxism as the Grouping's official ideology. We can, however, define the characteristics of the Grouping by [spelling out] what we hope matters will be like in the future. We are addressing ourselves to deep-seated patriotic and national groups, to progressive union members, to independent Marxists, and to all those who will agree to work within the Grouping on the basis of agreed upon political objectives.

[Question] Does the Grouping have a specific underlying ideology?

[Answer] We chose not to define an ideological, sectarian authority. We were rather satisfied with being defined by the political objectives and program outlines we chose and not by our choice of an ideology in the strict sense of the term. It was inevitable, however, that an ideological framework would be outlined by the fact that we adopted socialism and were entrusted with the responsibility for effecting democratic change and building socialism for the working class. That was mentioned in the statement: the socialism we accept and speak about rests on the world's socialist heritage, a heritage that accompanied the struggles of the working class and was the product of progressive scientific thought. In other words, there is an implicit ideology, which is socialism as construed within the forementioned context.

[Question] What are the principal features of your program?

[Answer] There is a plan that was prepared by some people from the Grouping. That plan was accepted as a working paper on the grounds that it would be

considered for [ossible] amendments and revisions. Consequently, there is no program that is ready. All that exists are program outlines which were included in the political statement. These may be summarized [by saying that] the present stage is characterized by the fact that there is political liberalization which is still modest. We hope, however, that political liberalization will be consolidated and that all the democratic liberties will actually be recognized. We give our blessings to the steps that have been taken in the context of that liberalization, particularly those that recognize some political movements. By the way, I personally want to caution the press about the use of the word, "pluralism." This term sounds good, but it is ambiguous. Although it denotes "the quality or condition of being plural," it does not signify an intellectual or a political movement. In addition, it may be used to undercut democratic liberties. I personally support democratic liberties and particularly multiple parties for all classes, groups and forces of different intellectual movements and political programs. Pluralism may signify having multiple opinions within a single party. It was this that was set forth by some people early in the seventies. Pluralism may signify a multiplicity of parties expressing the interests of segments of classes that are close to each other. It may also signify causing division among the working class, quite simply over its most important gain, which is its union organization, in the name of pluralism in the union.

We are democrats, and we are struggling to establish democracy and to secure it for everybody. The other side of the coin involves completing the tasks of national liberation by delivering our country from economic subordination and its consequences, such as subordination in matters of technology, food, weapons and other matters.

Also, the social demands of the masses--workers, farmers, young people, women and wage earners--and the middle classes in general do not receive their share [of attention] in the policy that is being pursued now. It is inevitable that there be radical social reforms to distribute the wealth and make basic social services, such as employment, education, health, transportation and other services, generally available. To put it briefly, our aim is to proceed one step at a time to provide the political conditions that would bring about democratic change in our society. This is the ideal way to achieve socialism, which is our objective.

[Question] What are the characteristics of your socialism?

[Answer] First of all, not everyone who proclaims socialism as a slogan is actually a socialist. We explained that our socialism is not that of the petty bourgeoisie which became widespread in the sixties in the Arab region, in Africa and in Tunisia. Our socialism acknowledges the leading role of the working class. On the one hand, our socialism seeks to bring about the sharing of the principal means of production and trade. On the other hand, we believe in democracy, but the democracy we believe in is not a stage. We believe in a socialist democracy, that is, we believe in the power that those who produce have on production, and we believe in providing personal and public liberties to everyone as required by the constitution. We are striving for the victory of freedom over the state of necessity. Our ideal is to be in a free society where Marx's statement is realized: "The availability of personal freedom is a condition for the freedom of the community."

We also consider ourselves part of the Arab Liberation Movement. On that basis we are directly concerned in the struggle against Israel, against reactionaries and against the aggression of the United States and its allies. We are also concerned about strengthening cooperative relations with Morocco and with Arabs in order to create the conditions that would be favorable to the establishment of Arab unity on democratic and liberal principles.

We also think that the danger of retaining land holdings that are not large may restore conditions for capitalist relations of production. This is because production of goods on a small scale may create large capital. However, this matter is problematic, and there are stages between where we are now and that situation. Except on a theoretical level, I do not believe that it constitutes a point for controversy in our work.

[Question] It is being said that your party was created to divest other organizations of their meaning regarding what concerns socialism. How will you deal with opposition organizations?

[Answer] Although the announcement about establishing the Grouping was made at a set time, preparations for the Grouping had preceded that date. In addition, the founders of the Grouping have a political history in the opposition that antedates the appearance of some of the other opposition parties.

We intend to establish relations with all the political forces of the opposition on the grounds of calling for public liberties, a general legislative amnesty and the right of all free people--individuals and groups--to speak their minds. Stated in detail, we are establishing bilateral or multi-lateral relations according to the requirements of political action. Except for circumstantial and seasonal alliances, we are striving to develop formulas for joint action, and we are trying to establish democratic traditions in the alliances we form. There are no guardians or containment attempts in these alliances. Of course we are establishing strategic alliances with progressive forces that share with us the substance of the principal features of the step-by-step program.

[Question] What are the prospects for your work in the next stage?

[Answer] In the next stage we will concentrate our work on achieving urgent political reforms. These are basically a general legislative amnesty and repeal of unconstitutional laws. On the social level we will try to protect the purchasing power of workers and improve their conditions in general.

We are also intent on preparing our step-by-step, direct program. We would welcome all honest contributions to that program because we believe that this is a task that does not concern us alone.

More immediately we are concerned with the matter of publishing the newspaper which we regard as a beacon to all progressive people.

We will also not fail to pursue our activity in the area of [seeking] democratic liberties through the organizations and agencies that are interested in those liberties. We are also devoting attention to youth sectors, women's sectors and trade unions. By the way, we support the independence of the General Union of Tunisian Workers [UGTT] and the democracy of its organizations. We express this support without interfering in the internal affairs of union members.

EXPULSIONS CAUSE SPLIT IN UGTT

Expelled Members' Press Conference

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 30 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by R. M.]

[Text] Far from providing a radical solution to the major unrest which has affected the UGTT's [Tunisian General Federation of Labor] governing bodies for nearly a year, the expulsion on Monday of the seven "frontist" members of the UGTT Executive Board [BE] by the Administrative Commission [CA] has caused a serious breach in the organization's ranks, especially since the details of the affair have now been brought to the public's attention. The press conference held yesterday by Mr Abdelaziz Bouraoui, leader of the expelled "anti-Achourists," i.e., Messrs Khaireddine Essalhi, Abdelhamid Belaid, Neji Chaari, Sadok Besbes, Abdelaziz Ghorbal and Mustapha Gharbi (all of whom attended the conference), was hastily organized by the respective parties to report their version of the facts in an affair which Mr Bouraoui described in the very beginning of his speech as "extremely grave, representing a bitter period in the UGTT's history."

In his account of the facts, Mr Abdelaziz Bouraoui made a sharp indictment of the UGTT's chairman, whom he reproached "for taking an antidemocratic stance, for monopolizing decision-making power within the Executive Board, and manipulating the various bodies of the UGTT for his advantage through procedures contrary to trade union ethics." Before explaining the reasons which led the CA in its last meeting to expel the seven union members in question, Mr Bouraoui made a point of recalling an historic detail, by way of, he said, a rectification. This was, he said, Mr Habib Achour's appointment to the formerly nonexistent post of UGTT chairman, which created an unusual situation inasmuch as the members of the BE, usually composed of an odd number, or 13 before Mr Achour's arrival, could no longer rely on the chairman's deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Mr A. Bouraoui then turned to the basic causes of the dissension among BE members and the reason behind the CA's decision. This decision, he said, was made following the seven respective members' endorsement of an internal union motion. This motion, Mr Bouraoui stated, was hardly made public. No press organ, either domestic or foreign, was therefore contacted. The newspaper which gained exclusive access to the text obtained the document on its own. There was never any contact between the motion's signatories and that publication. This proves, Mr Bouraoui explained, that "we were motivated from the outset by good intentions, for had it been our choice to publish the motion, why would we have selected only one newspaper to do so?"

Preservation of Unity

Mr Bouraoui then listed some details which led to the motion's development. According to him, this motion was the result of an internal UGTT situation which had deteriorated to an extreme degree. The crisis was so acute, Mr Bouraoui added, that we had decided to take an approach aimed at nothing other than preventing the irreparable and avoiding a situation which would jeopardize the federation's future. This is to say, he added, that "we were motivated by the desire to preserve unity within the UGTT and not to provoke a split, as some people would have you believe."

If that was the case, it has been said, then why did this motion come so late? Mr Bouraoui's answer: "We were trying to spare the working masses from the disastrous effects of the crisis, for we had hoped that the opposing side would ultimately realize the seriousness of the situation.... There are really very serious things going on, which threaten the UGTT's foundations.... This is evidenced by the working method adopted by the federation's chairman and those supporting his position.... Foremost among the positions which we deplore, because they are contrary to the UGTT's bylaws and internal regulations, are the conduct of individuals and the federation chairman's direct contacts with the officials with whom he took the liberty of negotiating and reaching a decision on basic issues without consulting the Executive Board beforehand.... We tried many times to dissuade Mr Habib Achour verbally, but this was in vain. Actually, we were considered 'weaklings' and a minority group promoting a sentiment of vengeance.... Has the UGTT's chairman forgotten that at the time of the Gafsa congress, when we had an absolute majority and when one-fifth of those attending the congress withdrew, we refrained from doing likewise?... In point of fact, the federation's chairman and some of his associates harbored the idea that entering the National Front required a clean sweep of the federation's bodies.... Thus the massive and arbitrary expulsions carried out in union ranks at the national and regional levels without consulting the rank and file at all. Isn't this proof of an obvious intention to divide the UGTT? The 'purgative' operations thus carried out were the result of an approach based on a 'carrot-and-stick' policy. Union members are manipulated, conditioned, and when it is certain that a majority has been obtained, a congress is held. It is often chaired by the chairman himself in order to give it a formal appearance of democracy.... But we ourselves could not have acted as a counterforce, for at least two reasons: finances are managed by a member entirely devoted to Mr Habib Achour; the other members of the Executive Board have several other resources, including the Hotel Amilcar, which they manage as though it is their own, when as everyone knows, it is the property of the UGTT...."

Expulsion Decided Well Before CA Meeting?

With regard to the absence of the "seven" from the last CA meeting, Mr Abdelaziz Bouraoui explained the reasons for this at length, reading to reporters the content of the letter sent to Messrs Habib Achour and Taieb Baccouche on the day that the commission's proceedings began.

It is apparent that this nonparticipation was motivated by two main factors: the "seven" were not invited to the aforementioned CA meeting, which is proof in their eyes that the expulsion measure had already been taken; the CA, as stipulated by Article 11 of the UGTT's bylaws, is hardly authorized to make a decision on the expulsion of a member of the BE. Prescribed procedure in this regard is to apply to the Disciplinary Council, which was not done (its chairman is Mr Khaireddine Essalhi), or to convene the National Council, which may proceed to take a conciliatory measure. However, with regard to expulsion, only the congress has the right to make such a decision. In this connection, Mr Abdelaziz Bouraoui challenged anyone to find in the UGTT's bylaws or internal regulations a clause demonstrating the validity of the expulsion measure taken by the CA.

The absence of the "seven" from the CA meeting was in fact deliberate, for the opposite would have given a legal character to the expulsion decision.

Mr Bouraoui explained that all these points were listed in the letter which the "seven" sent to the UGTT chairman on the day that the CA's proceedings began. A copy of this letter was also sent to Mr Taieb Baccouche at the same time. In this same letter, its signers suggested the establishment of an ad hoc committee to examine the motion.

In conclusion, Mr Abdelaziz Bouraoui explained the position of the "seven" on the expulsion measure. Their position may be summarized as rejection and nonrecognition of this measure, for "it is in flagrant violation of official regulations."

Mr Bouraoui revealed other details to the press concerning the climate surrounding the CA's proceedings. He said that the UGTT's headquarters were closed for the occasion, an unusual occurrence in the federation's traditions, that Mr Abdelhamid Belaid was forced to vacate his office at UGTT headquarters before the commission's proceedings began, etc....

He also quoted a statement made by Mr A. Achour before the CA's vote on the motion to expel the "seven," a statement judged extremely grave by Mr Bouraoui. The UGTT chairman reputedly said: "In another country, those people (meaning the seven) would have been executed. But we will limit ourselves to their expulsion."

There was then a period of answering reporters' questions concerning the possibility of establishing a second union leadership, the nature of the "frontists'" relations with the government, the material proof which the "seven" have to support their accusations of poor UGTT financial management, and the view of the rank and file on the freezing of activities of the BE's dissident wing.

Mr Bouraoui's answers to all these questions may be summarized as follows:

1) The "seven" have no intention of establishing a second trade union organization. But, he said, if regulations continue to be flouted, "the reaction of the rank and file may well be quite different."

2) Adherence to the UGTT and to its legal structures.

3) The "seven's" relations with the government are and will be normal, strictly trade-union relations far from having any political overtones.

4) The "seven" will not establish any relationship between the institution of a multiparty system in the country and the future of trade unionism in Tunisia, inasmuch as the Labor Code long ago opened the way for trade union pluralism.

With regard to Mr Taieb Baccouche's position on the "seven's" motion, Mr Bouraoui stated that the general secretary held a position in "our favor, that he was against a possible expulsion measure and that at the last minute, he took a different position, which is his own business."

BE Press Conference

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 2 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by L. C. and N. O.]

[Text] Following the marathon meeting of the UGTT CA, held from 26 to 30 November, reportedly the longest since 1946 and in which some important decisions were made, including in particular the expulsion of the seven signers of the declaration of 11 November, the UGTT BE held a press conference yesterday to assess the situation and to disclose the results of the proceedings.

Mr Achour's Report

UGTT Chairman Habib Achour said in his speech that the noted length of the CA's proceedings was due to the extent of unresolved problems.

In fact, he explained, the matter of the seven BE members took up a great deal of time and led to laborious discussions: "The action of those persons, who are trying to hamper trade union life and to paralyze UGTT structures, has constituted a precedent insofar as it jeopardizes the movement's unity.

"The expulsion, which is consistent with Articles 11 and 15 of the UGTT's bylaws and Article 8 of its internal regulations, is intended to give more vigor to trade union activity and to assure normal operation of UGTT institutions."

Mr Habib Achour also said that the CA had to study numerous problems concerning, among other things, the situation in the textile sector, making public transportation a private enterprise, the new civil service statute, and the General Compensation Fund.

With regard to the textile sector, Mr Habib Achour said that solutions have been found to guarantee trade union activity in the case of Sousse, Zaghouan, Kasserine and Jendouba.

Regarding public transportation, the UGTT chairman stated that the attempt to convert it into a private enterprise involves risks. This matter, he added, does not only affect trade unionists, but society as a whole.

Concerning the new civil service statute, Mr Habib Achour said that the parties involved have reached an agreement and that only certain details remain to be settled.

As for the General Compensation Fund, the UGTT chairman stated that the trade union's research division will make contacts with the government to work together on the matter.

Broaching the problem of Cooperative Production Units (UCP), he recommended guaranteeing the interests of persons living in this sector and considering their status. In this regard, he announced that the Ministry of Agriculture will directly handle the cases of 400 workers employed in such units.

Finally, he urged combating "the phenomenon of abusive layoffs and arbitrary closing of certain industrial enterprises. These distressing practices are apt to establish an unwholesome social climate."

Answers to Journalists' Questions

In answer to a question concerning the possibility of future trade union pluralism, Mr Habib Achour said: "In the interview which I granted to AL-HAWADITH magazine, I recalled only one fact: that trade union pluralism can take on two quite distinct forms.

"Trade union pluralism born of the desire of political parties to be supported by trade unions. We have an example of this in Morocco, where each party has its trade union.

"A pluralism which I far prefer and which consists of creating strong independent trade unions which, in a later stage, would create political parties in order to have political support, as is the case in Sweden and Great Britain, for example.

"But in the CA meeting, I voted against such a possibility, in order to conform to the will of the majority."

Concerning the decision to expel the seven members who signed the declaration of 11 November, the chairman of the UGTT BE said that this group has lost the trust of the union's rank and file, from the time that previous positions were taken to my reinstatement as head of the UGTT. From the time that my debarment was lifted, one of them (Mr Abdelaziz Bouraoui) was absent for at least 6 months.... Despite all that, I made sure that there was unity within the UGTT. I even went so far as to defend him when he was the target of harsh

criticism for being a member of the National Front. With the restoration of rank-and-file structures, they lost many of their supporters.

"I wish to state here and now before the public whom you represent that I did nothing to deprive them of their supporters, for the simple reason that I am not familiar with them. For your edification, I also wish to state that it is not my habit to intervene in this kind of decision, because I am convinced that only the union's rank and file is qualified to appoint its representatives. Which leads me to recall that legitimacy is not acquired by a dramatic development such as the one which the expelled members tried to provoke, but through a series of courageous decisions over time.

"The UGTT continues to enjoy great respect abroad, in both Western and socialist countries, for they know that we are free."

Concerning rumors that the UGTT is suffering from internal dissension, the UGTT chairman said that "the internal dissension and imbalances ended with the CA's meeting. This decision was made by joint agreement. There will be concrete solutions for all unresolved problems.

"The attempts to disregard this legitimacy have not worked and will never work," Mr Achour said, adding that "the CA in turn believes that the positions taken by the seven expelled members are without any legal foundation and are pure lies. For the CA, by virtue of certain articles of the UGTT's internal regulations, is authorized to take sanctions against anyone who does not conform to its decisions. And the allegations that the seven UGTT members were expelled for belonging to the National Front are false. For in the UGTT, the political sympathies of union members are never considered."

UGTT General Secretary Taieb Baccouche, seated next to Mr Achour, said that this is "a false problem."

In conclusion, the UGTT chairman announced that the CA has decided to call a meeting of the National Council for early February 1984.

"Between now and then," he said, "we have put everything in motion for the current BE and CA to discharge their duties."

CA Motion

Throughout its history, the UGTT has had to confront various plots and maneuvers aimed at destroying its structures and autonomy, depriving it of its national and social role and thus jeopardizing the interests of workers.

Today it is facing a new challenge: Seven members of the BE are trying to hinder union actions, to paralyze the UGTT's structures, to tarnish its public image both domestically and abroad, and to deal a blow to the unity of the trade union movement.

The communique of 11 November 1983, which they submitted as an accusatory document, is actually only a series of unfounded allegations formerly used,

with the same wording, by UGTT enemies in an effort to deal a blow to its prestige and legitimate structures.

They claim to be the defenders of socialist views, opposing the elimination of the Compensation Fund and making public transportation a private enterprise, and that they are persecuted within the UGTT for this reason. Through such slogans, they actually seek to deceive the workers and the public and to camouflage their position of compromise to the detriment of workers' interests, UGTT independence and unity within its ranks.

What makes their allegations devoid of any credibility is their deliberate refusal to submit to the judgment of legal and legitimate union structures, their rejection of the democratic rules of union action and UGTT procedure, and their obstinacy in trying to impose a minority view by undemocratic methods.

The CA notes with satisfaction the improvement in the UGTT's financial situation and most of its institutions, as documented by the reports submitted. It has expressed its satisfaction concerning the outcome of the regular and special congresses and has taken a series of measures to enable the continued restoration of union structures under favorable conditions.

The CA believes that the dissemination of the seven members' communique and its publication in the press, whereas it could have been submitted to the UGTT BE and CA, clearly shows that such conduct has nothing to do with constructive criticism, is not intended to improve the UGTT's situation or to eliminate the negative features which they claim to have found therein. The communique's publication at the very time that the decision to establish a multiparty system was announced and when official statements concerning multi-trade unionism were made, cannot in any way be the result of chance.

The CA supports political pluralism, which it considers an important achievement that the UGTT has helped to bring about, but denounces all attempts to establish trade union pluralism and to jeopardize the unity of workers and the unity of their organization.

In view of the foregoing, the UGTT CA, which met from 26 to 30 November 1983 at Hotel Amilcar under the chairmanship of comrade Habib Achour, UGTT chairman, judges that the following seven members of the BE: Abdelaziz Bouraoui, Khaireddine Essalhi, Mustapha Gharbi, Sadok Besbes, Abderrazak Ghorbal, Abdelhamid Belaid, Neji Chaari, who signed the communique of 11 November 1983:

- 1) Have disregarded the UGTT's structures by refusing to submit to their judgment.
- 2) Have published erroneous information and false allegations intended to deal a blow to the prestige of the UGTT, its structures and its cadres, both in Tunisia and abroad.
- 3) Have attempted to jeopardize the unity of workers and to divide union ranks by boycotting the meetings of the BE, the expanded BE and the CA in an effort to paralyze the activity of the UGTT's governing structures and, consequently, to harm union activity and workers' interests.

The CA, in accordance with Article 11 of the UGTT's bylaws, therefore has decided:

- 1) To expel the aforementioned seven members from the UGTT.
- 2) To fill the vacancy created within the BE in accordance with Article 15 of the UGTT bylaws and the organization's interests in order to assure its normal operation until the next congress is held.

In making these historic decisions, the CA is proud to state that democracy prevails within its organization and that it is open to all views and to all union members regardless of their political affiliation, provided they respect the UGTT's regulations, trade union independence and democracy, and that they act on behalf of the country's good and invulnerability.

Our organization is strong as a result of the confidence of workers, their loyalty to its principles and the democracy prevailing within its structures. Any attempt, regardless of its origin, to weaken the devotion of workers and union members to our organization is doomed to failure.

Long live the free, independent, democratic, strong and united UGTT in the vanguard of the country's vital forces.

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CSO: 4519/55

DEPUTY PREMIER DESCRIBES VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY AIMS, DEVELOPMENTS

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3093, 20 Jan 84 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadin, first deputy prime minister of Iraq, by Mustafa Bakri: "Egypt's Return to Arab Ranks Is Our Number One National Goal"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, the first deputy prime minister of Iraq, is talking to AL-MUSAWWAR for the second time in less than a year. As is his habit when he talks, his message is specific and extremely clear: we are pausing to consider many current issues most carefully. The man talked about the war, which has gone on at length, the domestic situation in Iraq, Iraqi-Soviet relations, relations with America, the status of bilateral relations between Egypt and Iraq, what went on in Taha Yasin's meeting with President Husni Mubarak when he visited Egypt recently, and Iraq's opinion on the future of Palestinian action.

The conversation began with this question: Three years of war in the Gulf have elapsed. You have paid a great deal for it. Now that the harshness of the cannons has abated a little, how do you evaluate your internal situation politically and economically, and the Arab position toward this war?

[Answer] It is natural that the war should have gone on at length. As numerous sources have evaluated it, it is indeed the longest and most comprehensive war since the world war, and has been underlining conclusions and shedding light on numerous aspects which I would not say are new or surprising to us as officials, although they have certainly been new, surprising and beneficial at the same time to international public opinion, particularly Arab public opinion. That is, many aspects which we talked about at the beginning of the war, which reflected our evaluation of the motives it brought forth, many people were not convinced about, even including some who had been counted as our friends in the Arab and international context. Today we believe that the situation has changed.

[Question] Do you mean that there has been an improvement in public opinion as far as understanding Iraq's position on the war goes?

[Answer] Yes, when we said that the war had been imposed on Iraq not just because of problems of the border dispute but also because of Iran's

ambitions in Iraq and the Gulf, many people rejected this premise, in order to justify taking the position of observers regarding the war. Today, however, the situation is different. Even the people who are standing alongside Iran in the Arab and international contexts cannot deny Iran's ambitions in the area, which the Iranian leaders themselves have acknowledged, as well as their pursuit of sabotage in the Gulf area, most recently the incidents of sabotage in Kuwait.

[Question] You mean that there has been a drop in the general support for what is called the Iranian-Islamic revolution?

[Answer] At the beginning, we tried to persuade the world that what is called the Iranian-Islamic revolution was only a cover for advancing a major conspiracy, at the forefront of which was the distortion of the teachings of Islam, for the sake of attaining racist and factional objectives at the same time. We found great difficulty not just in persuading numerous segments of Islamic public opinion but also in the method of making the presentation, since the Iranian presentation had been shrouded in an emotional format which induced many groups to support the slogans that were presented. Today, however, we find that all the Islamic currents, organized and disorganized, are aware and certain that the regime in Iran under the title of the Islamic revolution is more of a threat to Islam and its teachings than any other non-Islamic regime, from which we might except some organizations linked to that regime one way or another.

[Question] How has that benefitted you as far as the confrontation with Iran goes?

[Answer] We consider that clarifying the intentions of the Iranian enemy has been an important accomplishment, because it is a basic factor in blocking off their thrust toward the region. However, at the same time, we say that the actual improvement which has taken place on the Arab stage is not of the desired caliber. The tendency to observe is still prevalent on the Arab stage. In addition, both Syrian and Libya are continuing to cooperate with and offer aid to the Iranians. There has been a relative improvement in the international community and broader understanding of the dangers of this regime in Iran. Security Council Resolution 540 was passed by an overwhelming majority, expressing a new level of awareness in the international community of the situation in Iran and the circumstances of the war. However, we still say that improvement and attention in the Arab position will continue to be an influential element and program, even regarding the international situation and the continuation of the war itself.

The War and Iraq Domestically

[Question] Let us go back, then, to the effect of the war on the domestic situation in Iraq.

[Answer] We are not exaggerating when we say that the situation on the domestic front is now much better, not just in terms of form but also in terms of substance. The domestic front has proved its solidity in a difficult test, a test that rarely has been matched in the history of any people. The

Iraqi people have offered great sacrifices on the road of defense for the sake of protecting this nation and have provided a splendid, distinctive example during this stage, which has unfortunately been characterized by constant deterioration and retreat on more than one Arab stage and in more than one struggle. By this stand, they have reaffirmed that they are opposed to every attempt to weaken the unity of the domestic front. I can go so far as to say that our people needed such a test, even though we had wanted, and still want, to avoid this war, and its continuation.

We state that countries can be reborn only after many sacrifices, and therefore, in spite of all the costly sacrifices along the road of confrontation, we can say that our people have benefitted greatly from the effort to put the finishing touches on the process of building the new society which we aim to attain.

[Question] What about the progressive national domestic front in your country, and the news that is being circulated that the Iraqi Communist Party or, more specifically, a large portion of its personnel are soon to rejoin the front? This prompts us to discuss your position on the party and consequently its position on your regime.

[Answer] The front is in being, with all its forces, except for the Communist Party, with the history of its breakaway from the front, after it had violated the principles of the front to which all parties were signatories. The positions of this party reached the point of treason and of siding with the enemy in the war from the beginning. Discussions took place recently in the higher committee of the front after which it was decided that a meeting of the parties to it would be held to review the front's charter with the objective of developing its activity at a later period.

[Question] In what direction?

[Answer] The development of the front's charter will be in the direction of the new circumstances, especially since the charter was set out in 1973. A single party always needs to study its system and its missions from time to time, and that is even more the case with a front, which is made up of numerous parties.

[Question] So there is no intention now of having the Iraqi Communist Party resume engaging in its activities?

[Answer] No.

America, the Soviets and the Position on the War

[Question] It is very clear that you are critical of the Soviet position regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war. What do you consider your evaluation of this position to be, especially the recent position the Soviets took regarding the course of the conflict that is going on in the Gulf?

[Answer] In our evaluation of the Soviet and American positions on the war, and consequently those of the parties which lie within their framework, we

can state frankly that the drawn-out nature of the war has been a natural result of these positions. Although these parties have alleged on more than one occasion that they are in favor of stopping this war, we frankly realized that they did not play any part to this end in accordance with the premise that they are two countries with international responsibilities. However, there is of course a difference. As regards the Soviet position, after about a year of war had elapsed, a kind of improvement began in that area and channels were restored between us for the sake of improving the dialogue. We can even say now that we are to a large extent satisfied with the climate of good relations between our countries. We are confident now that the Soviets have a large picture of the real significance of the war and the Iranian rulers' intentions in the area. I believe that they now agree with us that the numerous practices that those rulers are pursuing in the direction of interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries constitute a great threat to the whole region.

[Question] Much news has been circulating, perhaps in Baghdad itself, on the resumption of relations between your country and the United States of America? Do you consider that there is anything new in this regard?

[Answer] Iraq is the only Arab country which has not had diplomatic relations with the United States of America since the 1967 war. We have constantly stressed, and still do stress, that a rupture in relations between the two countries is not a normal thing. The normal thing would be for Iraq to establish relations with all the countries of the world. The process of getting closer or maintaining distance is connected to each country's position on domestic and national issues. Therefore we consider that the current relations are exceptional, and not the rule. The day the reasons disappear, relations will resume.

[Question] However, it is clear that there has been a rapprochement between the two countries and that has become well known to all of public opinion.

[Answer] Recently the [United] States has tried to get closer to the process of the war and understand its circumstances, and not stand on the sidelines or behind the scenes. Channels have been opened up with it, and a dialogue has been opened with it, on these subjects and subjects governing relations between the two countries. In general, we can say now that the situation regarding the climate of relations is better than before. However, the situation still needs followup and a clearer role, especially as regards their position on the war and weapons support for Iran, even if that does not assume direct form.

[Question] Do you consider that the time has come?

[Answer] We cannot say that the time for the resumption of normal relations with the United States has come, but if we find that it is in our interests we will not hide the fact and will not be hesitant. We now feel that the United States has a clear desire to improve its relations. That is our aspiration, because it is in everyone's interests, because America is a great power which has its effect in the area and in the world, as does the Soviet Union.

[Question] Did the visit the American president's emissary, Mr Rumsfeld, made recently deal with a clarification of the American position on the American-Israeli strategic agreement?

[Answer] No, the discussions did not deal with that, although our position on the strategic agreement is one of principle, and this agreement has turned the United States into a party that is totally aligned toward Israel, which is the great danger, and weakens our confidence in the United States' role.

[Question] What, then, are the most important subjects Rumsfeld's discussions in Baghdad dealt with?

[Answer] The purpose of Rumsfeld's tour of the area was to learn about situations that have arisen in the whole area, Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian war, and that is what directly concerns us now. That is a desirable exchange which is occurring in this framework.

The Palestinian Revolution, and Its Future

[Question] You are well aware of the dimensions and the dangers that have arisen from the attempts to conspire against the Palestinian revolution and its historic leadership. What about the future of this revolution? How do you view the conspiracy, in its fundamental dimensions?

[Answer] What happened in Tripoli, and before, in particular since 1976, was a conspiracy with interconnected parts; we must not deal with matters in terms of their results alone, since an integrated analysis is required. The beginning, in my opinion, started with the entry of the Syrian forces into Lebanon, and their direct confrontation with the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian revolution over a period of more than 2 months. What happened at Tall al-Za'tar was a carbon copy of what happened in Tripoli, but I am sad to say that the people in charge of the Palestinian revolution did not give this stage the evaluation it deserves. We state that what the Palestinian revolution has faced in the course of this period is serious and expresses the level of deterioration, fragmentation and lack of national values and ties that has befallen the Arab situation. There is no doubt that the Syrian and Libyan positions on these events will result directly in serving the Zionist enemy.

[Question] Then what about the future of the Palestinian revolution? Do you see hints of an initiative on the horizon?

[Answer] We do not want to state what the future of the Palestinian revolution will be, but we do hope that the leaders of the revolution will study this stage with a broad perspective and national view far removed from complexes and leftovers from the past and that they will be bold in addressing themselves to the mistakes that they have succumbed to, which have played a part in that. If these leaders do not rise to this level of boldness in analyzing what has happened, including the responsibility of the Palestinian revolution itself, they will not be able to arrive at a new formulation of action and continue the revolution in the desired form.

[Question] So you evaluate the Syrian position in terms of its positions on the issues of the struggle in the area, specifically the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Palestinian revolution.

[Answer] On many occasions, when people talk about the Syrian role in terms of its background and its overall conduct, not only the person listening but also the person talking has doubts about these intentions, when they are measured by the slogans the regime is presenting. However, unfortunately, this regime has accustomed us to things we would have been surprised to see happening in any Arab country. When secret talk was taking place in 1976, during the Syrian army's entry into Lebanon, to the effect that the intent to effect a partition lay behind this matter, the features of this talk became directly apparent after that. The matter was then embodied geographically on the ground, with Israeli agreement. There was coordination. Had there not been, Syrian forces would not have gone into Lebanon at all. A few days ago Syria was claiming that its presence in Lebanon was to protect Lebanon. These same bodies turned around and asserted that the Syrian presence in Lebanon was only to establish internal security in Lebanon. This is not Syria's mission. Rather, it is the mission of the Lebanese army.

Relations between Egypt and Iraq

[Question] You have visited Cairo and have met with the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak. What about the agenda of the discussion? What about the results?

[Answer] On the personal level, it was an opportunity for me personally to meet with President Mubarak for the first time. The discussion between us concentrated on the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and, of course, on bilateral relations between the two countries and the most important conditions prevailing in the Arab area. There was frankness and a desire to offer what was best in terms of our nation's interests. We found that President Mubarak was following up on the circumstances and details of the war. He expressed Egypt's readiness as far as possible to stay on Iraq's side. We thank Egypt for its diplomatic activity and its fraternal work on behalf of the Iraqi and Arab positions. Of course we addressed ourselves to a discussion of the contribution the countries can make to the Palestinian revolution to help it emerge from its ordeal. I found that he had an interest in this matter and great grasp of what the Palestinian revolution is facing.

[Question] What about bilateral relations between your two countries?

[Answer] President Mubarak was as receptive as Iraq wanted him to be. We will not go into details, but the president asserted that Egypt, proceeding from the premise of the national view and the trust that has arisen between Iraq and Egypt and the presidents and peoples, leaves the extent of the cooperation and the expansion up to us and to the opportunities available to both parties. This is certainly an important matter which facilitates the task of our continuing together to develop the existing areas of cooperation between Iraq and Egypt not just to serve our two countries but also to serve the whole Arab nation. A great development has occurred in relations whose

effects will appear in the coming stage in all areas of economic, vocational and youth cooperation. Finally, Iraq has agreed to a return of all the economic and press counsellors' offices to the two countries; the commercial center, the al-Rafidayn branch and the Iraqi bookstore have already reopened in Cairo.

Our position on President Husni Mubarak is not just based on the fact that he has taken positive steps toward Iraq. It is based also on a national premise, essentially: we consider that the Mubarak era is indeed a new one. We say that because all Mubarak's conduct and positions indicate that there is a new national and patriotic era in Egypt, in the constant desire we sense for an opening toward the Arab countries or his position of failing to reply to what is said about Egypt in order to avoid further disputes and to rise above the verbal abuse left over from the previous stage, which had a negative effect in deepening the areas of dispute between Egypt and the Arab countries. This is a bold position and one which expresses an insistence on transcending a specific phase and embarking on a new one. In spite of Egypt's circumstances, which we appreciate and understand, we now find that Egypt's official position on the Palestinian revolution is no less than that of the other Arab countries, which are not going through Egypt's circumstances and difficulties. That is indeed something new, and we know that that is imposing a lot on Egypt.

On its position on the Iraqi-Iranian war, it is true that Egypt has not sent forces, but the Egyptian political position is good. We know what sending us weapons means. In addition, the position of the Egyptian media, which support Iraqi rights, and the position of the Egyptian officials, headed by President Mubarak, at international conferences and gatherings, is also something we appreciate.

We find that there is a connection between the national and domestic positions, and therefore our hopes are great that relations will be enhanced in the service of the nation and its causes.

[Question] Finally, what about the Arab summit and Egypt's return to the nation?

[Answer] The summit will be held next March, and the Arab League has played a major part in this matter. We have great hope that the Arabs will consider Egypt's position seriously. It is necessary to choose the appropriate time to discuss this issue in a collective manner: advocating the return of Egypt, all of Egypt, to the Arab nation. We in Iraq, the government and the party, consider that this matter is the number one national goal, and you can understand what that means!

The touchy feelings have dissipated, and Mubarak has helped eliminate them. Nothing is left for us all except to go beyond them.

WOMEN MK'S SAID MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MEN

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jan 84 p 5

[Article by Yeshayahu Sussman]

[Text] "WOMEN Knesset Members have been more active legislatively than their male peers and have sometimes been more successful in their legislative activity," according to political scientist Dr. Giora Goldberg.

Goldberg, who teaches political science at Bar-Ilan University and who has recently completed research on the performance of women in legislative politics, said that women in most nations used to be considered marginal to the legislative process because they lacked political rights, particularly the right to vote. Even after they succeeded in obtaining the voting right, the tendency to see women as marginal in politics continued, based on the under-representation of women in political life.

However, Goldberg pointed out, in a society such as Israel, where women never had to fight for the right to vote and where a tradition of a male-dominated legislature had not developed, it would be incorrect to see women's politics as being marginal, even when women are under-represented.

According to the research, women make up 8.2 per cent of the Israeli parliament; this figure is higher than the percentage found in most western democracies. Goldberg said the success of Israeli women is a result of the Israeli electoral system.

This is based on lists fixed by the parties, with the whole country

forming a single constituency. The seats are then allocated proportionally among the parties. This allows the party institutions to place women candidates in "safe spots" on their lists, thus ensuring their election to the Knesset.

Goldberg believes that the main contribution to women's represen-

tation in Knesset was made by the socialist parties which led the government coalition until 1977. The best example can be found during the years 1969-1974, when the highest political position, prime minister, was held by Golda Meir.

The study found that while the number of women legislators in committee memberships and chairmanships is proportionate to their number in the Knesset, women are under-represented in the two most influential committees: finance, and defence and foreign affairs. However, the research shows that an over-representation of women exists in committees dealing with social policy, such as education and culture or labour and social services. Goldberg maintains that this is not an indication of marginality, but rather of the relative weakness of women in Israeli political parties, which allocate committee membership.

After studying all private members' bills introduced in the Knesset between 1949 and 1981, Goldberg found that women MKs

tend to introduce more bills than male members. He said that this finding, indicating that women are more active than men, differs from most other studies, which tend to show women's activity as relatively low.

Moreover, the study found that women Knesset members have been almost twice as effective as male members in having bills passed in the parliament.

"But one must take into consideration," Goldberg said, "that women were more successful than their male colleagues in getting their bills passed only when they sat in the coalition."

Amongst the women that Goldberg specifically mentions in his research is Labour Knesset Member Shoshana Arbelli-Almozlino, who has served in the Knesset since 1966. She is classified by Goldberg as "the policy-oriented active type" of legislator. He believes that her success in legislative activity is outstanding.

Goldberg explained her success as a result of a "moderate approach, characterized by pragmatism and gradualism, as well as a willingness to collaborate with the government.

She did not try to propose radical solutions to women's problems."

On the other hand, Goldberg classified Tehiya Knesset Member Geula Cohen as representing the "ideology-oriented active type" of legislator. Such legislators believe in the power of their ideas and in their own ability to realize them.

"Geula Cohen's activity in the Knesset," Goldberg said, "has been extremely high and of an aggressive and obstructionist style. Her main area of interest is foreign and defence policy, in which she is one of the most hawkish members."

Goldberg credits Geula Cohen with achieving "the most outstanding success of any woman legislator in the Knesset," when her Basic Law on Jerusalem was adopted in July 1980.

While Arbelli-Almozlino has made an outstanding contribution

to the cause of women at the legislative level, Goldberg said that Cohen has not contributed directly to the feminist cause. He points out, however, that Cohen serves as an example of a "successful, self-made woman."

Goldberg added that he supports the recommendations made in 1978 by a public commission established by the then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to examine the status of women in Israel, which urged political parties to guarantee representation for women on their Knesset lists, and to reserve at least 25 per cent of the realistic places on the lists of candidates for women.

Goldberg believes that "in view of the impressive performance of women as legislators, the recommendations should be supported."

NEW PILOTLESS RECONNAISSANCE PLANE DEVELOPED

Haifa INNOVATION in English No 98, Jan 84 pp 6, 7

[Text]

Tel Aviv - Tadiran Ltd., leading Israel developers and manufacturers of communications gear and advanced electronics, have released a new generation remotely controlled miniature airplane for military reconnaissance applications. Named the Mastiff Mk III, this craft incorporates many of the lessons learned from the actual use of such systems by Israel's Defense Forces.

The Mastiff Mk III is a compact, but very powerful plane, capable of remaining airborne for as long as seven hours. It is 3.30m (about 11 ft) long, has a wing span of 4.25m (almost 14 ft), and is powered by a 28 hp pusher engine. Maximum airspeed is 180 kph (app. 110 mph), and the craft can carry a 30kg payload.

The Mastiff takes off from anything that resembles a runway, such as a level field or a stretch of unobstructed road; alternatively, it can be catapulted into the air from a vehicle mounted launcher. Only a very short runway is needed for retrieval: an arresting wire, stretched at near ground level brings the miniature plane to a complete stop after only 15 meters (about 50 ft).

An autopilot is active during all stages of its mission, in addition to the command link with the ground control center, to assure the plane's stability and the performance of its assigned tasks. The mastiff can also operate without ground control, on the basis of a twenty step program fed into its autopilot. Once in the air the Mk III is very difficult to detect: it has low visibility and a small radar cross section, emits little heat on which infrared detectors can focus, and operates at very moderate noise levels.

As a rule, the payload consists of an electronically remote controlled television camera, installed in gimbals; upon commands from the ground this camera can swing backward, forward and to both sides to yield 360° coverage of the area beneath the plane. A minipanoramic camera, capable of taking still pictures for study after the Mk III returns to base, can also be carried.

The information picked up is transmitted, in real time, to the system's control station, usually carried on a 2.5 ton truck. This includes a data link system, for flight and payload control, a computing system for the analysis of telemetry and tracking data, viewing screens and recording gear.

Operating the Mastiff to best advantage is a relatively simple task. The seven man team needed for that purpose can be trained in a matter of weeks. Maintenance of the aircraft itself also offers no problems: high reliability and modular construction make repairs a relatively rare and never a complicated matter.

CSO: 4400/155

YOUTH COUNSELLING PROGRAMS DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv NEWSVIEW in English No 3, 17 Jan 84 pp 19-23

[Text] In doorways, in seedy cafés, on the streets, Jerusalem's 60 youth-gang counselors are engaged in "a form of patriotism" whose aim is the redemption of wasted lives.

The Jerusalem neighborhood of Mamilla is a deserted ruin. After it is re-developed, it should look beautiful, with its golden Jerusalem-stone balconies and stairways, and view of the Old City. But the boys who gather here every evening are bitter. They are the sons of families evacuated from Mamilla. They have been scattered among neighbourhoods throughout the city but still they return here where there are no cafés or discos, just close friends and familiar turf. A woman counselor works with the boys, in the street, in the doorways, trying to channel their frustration into something constructive, or at least provide someone with whom they can talk. Toward the end of a gutted street is the office for which she works, the municipality's Yechida Lekidum Hanoar, the Unit for the Advancement of Youth, more commonly referred to as Chavurot Rechov, Street Gangs, after their clientele.

Yosef Meyuhas, the unit's supervisor, walks into the office and declares: "I've just been told that I have to cut my staff by two percent this week, and by six percent within a month. And that will only be the beginning. All the time I ask for more workers, and now they take." About 60 counselors cover the entire city of Jerusalem; Meyuhas claims he needs 90.

"It goes against my principles to let anyone go," he says. If we can only help 50 boys, out of a total of some 500, that means 450 don't get any help. They grow up hating the world and themselves. They're bad soldiers in the army and when they come out they're bad citizens. For those who fall, there's no one to pick them up."

The street counselors try. They make contact with youngsters, in their teens and twenties, hanging out on street corners--or in tough, more tightly-knit gangs. They attempt to pull them away from the influence of the group and get them into a productive, steady pattern: school, work, or a vocational training course. They work with the Israel Defense Forces to see that the boys get job training while they do their compulsory service or are stationed someplace far away from their home environment. In addition, the counselors help the boys, when necessary, deal with the police and court system.

Most of the neighborhoods where the counselors work are predominantly Sephardi. They also cover the Arab section of East Jerusalem. The boys they deal with (some girls are assisted too) cannot be placated with Ping-Pong or video games. Some have had police records since the age of nine. Some are drug users or dealers. And if not, they are vulnerable to trouble, spilling out of overcrowded apartments to roam the streets. Others are rebellious in school, or are unable or unwilling to find a job. They are wedged between the traditional society of their immigrant parents and a harsh, competitive world with its tempting symbols of success. They have witnessed their fathers' humiliation and the undermining of their authority, yet the boys themselves--an Israeli-born generation--are failing to make it in their own society.

The street counselors, who neither keep regular hours, nor punch timeclocks, and sometimes look more like clients than counselors, reach out to the boys night after night on their own turf: in clubhouses, if there are any, in cafes, bars, discos, parks, alleys and stairwells. The boys, though, do not always reach back.

The boys may suspect them of being police agents or just may not want anything to do with them--every counselor interviewed was threatened at some time with a weapon. The police may think they are privy to valuable information. The city that pays them may think they foment dissent; neighborhood families may view them as all-powerful representatives who will sweep away all their problems. Their work can spread into all hours, their caseload is impossible to handle--one neighborhood of 10,000 has three counselors. Their "success rate" may, statistically, be low. But statistics fade in the light of one kid who manages to kick a drug habit, break away from a gang or return to school.

"Yes, there are bad kids," says Meyuhas, "but also plenty of good kids, great kids. There are authentic leaders in these groups."

Some counselors have themselves emerged from these neighborhoods. Some are Sephardi, some Ashkenazi. Some have an M. A. degree in social work or an equivalent. Some have no background at all in social services. One woman, now a counselor for more than four years, studied theater. Some are immigrants, but their Hebrew is fluent enough to understand the Israeli equivalent of American inner-city street jive.

A counselor cannot do his work without believing in it. It demands compassion without condescension, infinite patience, an acute sense of observation, calm alertness and a quick visceral intelligence. Counselors need to be, for Meyuhas, "both professional and political," political meaning to have a definite vision of the world and how it works or ought to work. "A counselor can be for Lebanon, against Lebanon, it's not important. But he needs to be patriotic toward Israel, in his own way."

The apartment buildings in the northern Jerusalem neighborhood look like huge blocks of concrete. They are trees, patches of green, a central playground. Garbage is piled on the grass and in stair wells.

Kids on a corner wave to the counselor, ask where he's been and banter with him. He takes a cigarette from one boy without asking and a light from another boy's cigarette. It's almost protocol.

He visits an apartment where 11 people--soon to be 12 when one son's wife gives birth--are crammed into three small rooms. The counselor is trying to arrange a tutor for a daughter, but it is impossible to study in those jammed quarters. The father warmly ushers the counselor in and eagerly asks him about something else: has he found a way for them to move to a larger apartment in an expanded building? No, he hasn't. The father then rehashes the whole story of how he sought assistance from the appropriate office when a nearby building was expanded, how he was promised an apartment, and how other families with fewer children "got it served on a plate."

"What the father didn't say," the counselor adds later, "was that I had to push him to the office. It's 10 meters away. He didn't have the motivation to go. A lot of these people don't have the skills to improve themselves, and don't become motivated until they see other people getting something. Then they try and lose and get more bitter. Then, we workers are blamed in the neighborhood as being part of the system, and the system blames us for being too much a part of the neighborhood."

In another apartment the father welcomes the counselor and offers him a drink. The counselor had found a teacher for the daughter a while back; a below-average student showing little potential, she suddenly bloomed and excelled. "The family loves me now and can't do enough for me, but what's really a job is just to watch her."

In the street a young man approaches the counselor and says that two policemen jumped him the previous night. They searched him for drugs and then slapped him around. "Look, I'm married," he had told them. "I want to work, what do I want with drugs?"

He had, the counselor later affirms, pulled himself free of drugs and alcohol, stealing and his old crowd, through his own willpower and the support of his girlfriend, now his wife. "The police don't believe that he can really be rehabilitated. They don't understand the impact of their simple action. It humiliates and pushes him into the arms of his (old) friends." He had fought his friends and turned down their offers of drugs and money. They still offer, he still refuses. "The main problem of his self-image is taken care of. His problem now is to find a job and apartment. He wants to take a bus driving course, but he can't afford a pair of glasses. There are budgets for programs, rehabilitation, grass and trees, but no budget for the simple purchase of glasses."

In the Muslim quarter of the Old City the tourist shops are closed, their iron grids shut. The alleys are dark. Tourists, police, soldiers and Hassidim headed for the Western Wall are gone. An Arab counselor enters a café where boys crowd around video games. Some sip beer. There is no place for them to go other than the cafés or the alleys.

The café is a gathering place, recreation site and counseling center. It is also where drugs, money and hot merchandise change hands. Older boys, 18 plus, also hang out here; the ones who influence and exploit the younger boys, who introduce them to crime and drugs. They exert pressure on youngsters to remain in the group if a counselor attempts to lure them away. They are capable of threats and violence.

"It's better to take the boys into the street," says the counselor, "but the police split them up. They come by and say it's forbidden to sit together, and send them all in different directions."

Arab dropouts can find only the lowest paying, most demeaning work--"black labor." They get discouraged and drift into the alleys, where pickpocketing tourists is easier and more lucrative, until they are caught and the cycle of arrests, records, more arrests and more records begins. Any chance of the counselor sitting with the police on a steady basis, trying to explain his work and building better relations, is precluded by a staggering caseload. There is no end to his running down to the police station to vouch for one boy or another, to assure that a boy is working or wants to work, to find legal funds, or to ensure that boys are not kept in detention without formal charge more than the legal limit of 48 hours.

The counselor, who works with about 25 boys between the ages of 13 and 18, estimates that about 150 in his area alone need immediate attention. The boys over 18, tougher and more seriously entangled in drugs and crime, receive no guidance from the municipality's youth-advancement unit. Of the 60 counselors in the field, five cover all the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. To the boys' families the concept of a street counselor is foreign. Because he can visit a family only once every one or two weeks, it is difficult to communicate that the city sent him to help them. Many of the boys refuse to believe that someone from the city wants to help them, and the Arab counselor, too, hears accusations of "police agent."

In 1971 the Black Panthers, a group of street kids and ex-delinquents from the Jerusalem slum of Musrara began organizing and protesting loudly, angrily and sometimes violently. The sudden exposure of delinquency in Jerusalem, and the social and economic conditions of many of its neighborhoods, shocked the Israeli public and the national government. Similar movements ignited in other cities. The municipal street counselors were suddenly in the limelight, for they had given the street youth encouragement and guidance to organize themselves, as well a meeting place in town where they rubbed shoulders with university students and picked up bits of radical ideology. The publicity brought the program more money, more counselors, as well as accusations of fomenting revolution and siding with lower-class neighborhoods "against" the municipality and government.

"We have a very bad name," says Meyuhas. "The establishment was wary of us because it feared organized political power in the neighborhoods."

At the time of the Panther explosion, Dr. Eliezer Jaffe, an American-born professor of social work at Hebrew University, was serving as head of the municipality's social welfare department, which was responsible for the street-corner and other community workers. He was accused of injecting his department with American Black Panther activism and ideology.

Jaffe shrugs off such charges as "convenient and naive," but openly acknowledges that the street counselors encouraged slum youth to speak up for themselves, and that in doing so they were doing their job and a community service. "A disadvantaged group, in order to make changes, must speak out. That for me is a holy principle. Anything that helps them speak out is a vital activity." The Black Panthers in 1971 created, with a push from the counselors, "public pressure to move," he adds.

But nowadays, claims Jaffe, the counselors work in a vacuum. After the Black Panther explosion, their office was moved from the city's social welfare department, with its various branches, programs and referral facilities, to the education department. That "stifled the capacity to function as they could or should. A street counselor's task involves outreach, personal follow-through and brokerage: linkage up with programs, agencies and services."

But the street counselor is now isolated from those services. Moreover, the concern of individual families for their children does not congeal into the united, grass-roots pressure needed to impel change.

"The thought is, if there is a social worker, he'll take care of it. The street workers will take care of it. That situation is doomed. A social problem becomes a social problem when someone makes it a social problem." Nevertheless, says Jaffe, "the street worker has become the sole spokesman" for the kids on the street, "without others willing to take risks."

On the Street

The word spreads very quickly when a new counselor is coming. You are a stranger. They suspect that you are a police agent. You are under a microscope. You are outside the circle, mentally and physically, and you feel it."

Eli Kubesí has worked for two years as a counselor in Shmuel Hanavi, a neighborhood which before the 1967 war marked the border with Jordan. Now, across the road, lies the middle-class neighborhood of Ramat Eshkol. The boys whom Eli counsels stay in their own neighborhood. If they do cross the road, it is at night: perhaps to smash car windows or deflate tires, which they will justify to Kubesí by saying, "They had it coming."

Kubesí, studying for an M. A. in public management, himself grew up in a poor neighborhood. He hung around with a group that committed crimes, until his friends beat him up for backing out of a break-in. He has worked with groups in Shmuel Hanavi that range from very loose, amorphous gatherings, to tightly organized gangs with leaders, lieutenants, gunners and informants. There are treaties and payments made among leaders, and conflicts, chicanery and cunning street politics that would stifle a diplomat. The boys know how to exploit younger kids and manipulate do-gooders. They talk smoothly and are superb liars.

They are also confused and frustrated. Says Kubesí: "Society hates, rejects and fears them. That's the image they get. When society is afraid, the boys feel they have power, and when they feel they have power they want to use it."

Gaining their initial trust, he explains, may take six months or longer. "They talk to you about nothing: sports, prices. They don't speak about their problems or themselves. They say just the opposite. They brag. They never expose themselves without knowing who you are."

"Then comes the indirect test. Someone says he needs you. For what? A job. You go to meet him at the employment office. Nobody shows up. You go another time. No show. The third time you go again. Then, when he's got a job, he doesn't need you."

"When someone goes to court, that's the first chance for real contact. He wants you to come to court to tell the judge he's O. K. That's the first test between you and yourself. If you lie for him, they know it and start exploiting you, and this is the end of your work."

"Then comes a new test. They tell me they were out committing a robbery. I know this kind of intelligence. I say 'Yeah, so was I, I didn't see you there.'" One of the few cardinal rules is to avoid going to the police with information about a crime.

But the tests heighten. Out come the threats and weapons. Kubesí's first threat came when three boys--one on drugs and one a gang leader--caught him on some stairs, held a knife to his face, accused him of being a police agent and ordered him out of the neighborhood. "Wow," he admits, "that was frightening. But you have to make them understand you're not afraid. I said, 'Fine don't believe I'm a counselor. But I'm not out.'"

The next time it was a razor blade. "The leader warned me: 'These are my people, not yours.'" When a leader sees that a counselor will not be scared off, the conflict really begins. His own authority is being challenged. Perhaps the counselor can arrange a truce, or go right to the leader, size him up and find out what he needs the most: legal help, money for another leader, or a job. Kubesí will try to find him a job that gives him a "macho feeling," or choose him for a slot in a training course, over the other boys. "But there's always someone to take his place," he notes.

If the leader is not won over or neutralized, a battle can begin over a boy who tries to break the ice with Kubesí. "When he makes an effort to break away from his friends I have to catch him. I have to show him he's important to me."

"They try to bribe him back. They'll offer money. It's very simple, friendly. But they keep on trying. They come later, asking for a favor: 'Help with a break-in, you'll just sit in the car.'"

"If he goes back, he will always be back. It humiliates the counselor. And the boy thinks: 'Society will pay me back--with double interest.' He'll be in a place of honor."

"But sometimes he's strong. You tell him he can deal with it. He will fight, and he will win. The success is not the counselor's success, it's the boy's success. For once he did something for himself. If he trusts me now, that is all I expect."

At this point, the counselor is introduced into the boy's family. He may take on the younger siblings, and there is tremendous pressure on him to take care of everything.

Concludes Kubesi: "There's a lot of frustration, and some success. But many counselors get burned-out. I feel spread too thin over too many subjects, to many people, too big an area. Most families don't know what to do. They try to send an S. O. S. in every direction."

CSO: 4400/155

BRIEFS

ARAB COMPLAINTS OF ARRESTS--Sakhnin (Itim).--Residents of this Galilee village have complained to Interior Minister Yosef Burg and police Inspector-General Rav Nitzav Arye Ivtzan about a wave of arbitrary arrests in recent weeks. In a letter from local council chairman Mohammed Hassan Ghana'im, local police are accused of carrying out hasty and random arrests, and sometimes bursting into local residents' homes in the middle of the night. Responding to the allegations, Galilee police commander Nitzav-Mishne Meir Sadeh denied that the arrests, a few dozen in number, have been arbitrary. They were based, he said, on reliable information concerning arson, blocking highways, throwing stones at cars and raising the Palestinian flag in demonstrations after the Sabra-Shatilla massacre and on last year's Land Day anniversary, March 30. Some of those arrested have been convicted, he added. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jan 84 p 3]

REOPENING TOXIC WASTE SITE--Beersheba.--The toxic waste site at Ramat Hovav, 12 kilometres south of here, is ready to be reopened, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned. A court order closed the site last summer. The burial of 10,000 tons of dangerous industrial wastes dumped at the site was completed this week. The Industry and Trade Ministry's company, Mivnei Ta'asia, which now is responsible for the site, is ready to receive new consignments of waste products. Company chief engineer Danny Ne'eman said yesterday that the three ministries involved, Health, Interior, and Industry and Trade, were satisfied that the site is fit to re-open. He is now waiting for approval by the district town-planning commission, Ne'eman said. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jan 84 p 3]

MILITARY NIGHT VISION INSTRUMENTS--Rehovot--A line of special purpose night vision instruments, for a large variety of military applications, is now available from Elop Electrooptical Industries Ltd. A leading firm in its field, Elop has made significant contributions to various Israel defense programs, such as the Kfir multi purpose combat plane, developed and built in this country. The company's night elbow telescope is a passive second generation night vision device, designed to replace the now obsolete infrared systems in use until not long ago. The new development is completely passive; its operation cannot be detected by an approaching enemy. The Night Driver's Viewer is a passive biocular electrooptical periscope. It makes it possible to drive tanks and other vehicles in the dark without any auxiliary illumination. Elop's Night Vision Goggles amplify light from the moon and stars; they leave the operator's hands free for driving or other tasks. Elop's

shipboard passive infra red target acquisition system (SPIRTAS) can identify a large variety of potential targets--incoming missiles, as well as enemy air and surface craft--by detecting those objects' own emitted infrared signature. The system is completely passive; there is no active emission whatsoever to give its position away to the enemy. [Text] [Haifa INNOVATION in English No 98, Jan 84 p 2]

CSO: 4400/155

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA DISCUSSED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Article: "Cooperation in Mass Action Between Our Country and Bulgaria Discussed"]

[Text] Comrade Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, executive committee member and chief of the national command of the popular defense committees organization, discussed with comrade General Palin, central committee member in the Bulgarian Communist Party, bilateral relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the field of mass action. During the meeting held yesterday at his office, comrade Sulayman Nasir Muhammad explained to the Bulgarian delegation the experience of the popular defense committees organization in the field of mass action and the organization's role in aiding security agencies in defending revolutionary gains, raising security awareness among the people and bolstering the party's leadership role in society.

He also apprised the delegation of the organization's major tasks for next year, including the comprehensive campaign to eliminate illiteracy, the organization's role in compiling security statistics in the various governorates, and the exchange of viewpoints about the work of the two organizations between the two sides.

The meeting was attended by the Bulgarian ambassador to Aden, comrade Dimo Khristov Kamburov, and some members of the secretariat of the popular defense committees organization.

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CSO: 4404/263

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

PROGRESS REPORTED ON REBUILDING BAYAYS DAM

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 1 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Work on rebuilding the Batays Dam and irrigation facilities damaged in 1982 is presently underway. As of the beginning of October 1983, 40 percent of the earth and concrete work was complete and the dam is presently being lined with stone. The rebuilding of the Hanat and al-Hadarim dams has been completed and the rebuilding of the Fu'ad and Mujahid dams and other facilities in Lahij Governorate are in progress. In the field of drilling water wells and contracting irrigation systems in irrigated land, 167 water wells have been drilled; irrigation systems have been built; and 1,920 hectares of land irrigated from these wells have been re-surveyed as of October 1983.

With regard to cooperation in cultivating land irrigated from dams and wells and maintaining irrigation facilities built with the technical help of the Soviet Institute, both sides have acknowledged that the Soviet-Yemeni Institute is carrying out agreed-upon commitments. Soviet and Yemeni advisors last November prepared a comprehensive program for the Bahran al-'Ara'is farms up to 1990.

The second session of the agricultural and irrigation sub-committee of the standing committee for technical and economic cooperation between the PDRY and the Soviet Union concluded its work on 3 November 1983 at the offices of the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform.

The Yemeni side was headed by comrade Nasir Muhammad 'Amir, deputy minister of agriculture for administrative and irrigation affairs, while the Soviet side was led by comrade Ivanov, member of the ministerial agency for irrigation and water resources in the Soviet Union.

The committee reviewed, during its session, work to be done in the field of irrigation and cultivation of irrigated land and adopted several resolutions and recommendations in this regard. Construction of irrigation systems, a comprehensive survey of land and progress of work for rebuilding the Bayzaj Dam and building an irrigation system, as well as progress in rebuilding the Batays Dam and facilities damaged by floods, were also reviewed.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union will send 3 advisors for a period of 1 year to prepare a study on agricultural mechanization, pest and disease control and development of animal resources in state farms.

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CSO: 4404/263

HADRAMAWT 1983 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS REVIEWED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR AL-USBU'I in Arabic 23 Dec 83 pp 4,5

[Article by 'Aziz al-Tha'alibi: "9,047,000 Dinars in Investments in the 1983 Plan for the Governorate of Hadramawt"]

[Text] In the course of three quarters of the 1983 plan, the Governorate of Hadramawt has witnessed tangible accomplishments in the context of the execution of the plan, which has accompanied our people's celebration of the 20th anniversary [of the revolution] and the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the party.

The investment allocations to plan projects, after the additions, came to 9,047,000 dinars. The completion rates are as follows:

The Sector of Agriculture

The volume of investment allocations to this sector up to the end of the third quarter came to 8,391,000 dinars on the basis of the plan for the third year, 1983, and 9,147,000 dinars on the basis of the amendments in the middle of the year, when investments were mobilized for nine projects, specifically the drilling of wells and reclamation of land in Wadi Hadramawt (665,000 dinars), the second stage of the Wadi Hadramawt agricultural [project], 129,000 dinars, and the Wadi Mayfa' Hajar studies, 294,000, in addition to the joint projects (the secondary irrigation projects, the reproduction of domestic seeds, guidance and organizations, grain storehouses, support for workshops and rental stations, and the development of fruit and vegetable transportation and distribution). The agricultural sector project evaluation report points out that the Governorate of Hadramawt has not benefitted from the increase in allocations of most joint projects, as the investments carried over show.

In the light of this increase, the investments carried over to the end of the third quarter came to 1,064,107 dinars, for an increase of 92,730 dinars over the second quarter.

The projects which have benefitted from this increase are:

The drilling of wells and land reclamation in Wadi Hadramawt (313,000 dinars).

The second stage of Wadi Hadramawt (94,000 dinars).

The Mayfa' Hajar studies (18,500 dinars).

Guidance and improved agricultural systems (54,950 dinars).

Development of the poultry industry:

The investments in the project come to 1.99 million dinars. It is a joint project and no money has been handed over to the governorate, because the project is being carried out under central supervision.

One should be reminded that agreement has been reached on the establishment of a project in al-Mukalla to produce 15 million eggs a year under the supervision of the contracting company. The General Poultry Development Organization has been active in carrying the project out through contacts it is making with the Ministries of Agriculture and Planning. It has presented a recommendation on project investments for 1984 of 1,165,000 dinars to be included in projects for the fourth year of the plan.

Studies on water sources:

The project is being carried out in a number of the republic's governorates. The sites for 16 wells in the Governorate of Hadramawt will be determined and the guidance station in the region (at Nakhil Ba Wazir) will be completed.

Fruit and vegetables:

The development and improvement of fruit and vegetable storehouses, through completion of the construction of a 1,000-ton refrigerator in al-Mukalla. The bid for the installation has been awarded to a foreign company and a person representing it determined the site to be stipulated for the refrigerator the last week in September, while an engineer delegated by the General Industrial Installation and Construction Organization set out the designs and tables on quantities at the end of last July. A 500-ton refrigerator will be constructed in Say'un.

The bid was awarded to another foreign company to construct a project with a capacity of 1,000 tons, and coordination is taking place with the center to raise the allocations to the project for the receiving center in the town of Shibam.

The Sector of Industry

This sector witnessed good activity in the third quarter, which led to the construction of some industrial projects. This is the picture:

The work on the automated bakery in the October section of al-Mukalla has been completed, and it was opened last October. It is now offering services for the citizens in al-Mukalla.

The aluminum plant for doors and windows in the Jul Mashah area, in the district of al-Mukalla, was also opened last October.

The soda water plant: studies are underway on the project. The conclusions this study has reached have not been released by the center.

The gypsum and chalk plant in Ghayl Ba Wazir:

Five casting molds have been imported and are being installed; however, the plant is seeking a solution for the lack of turnover of its output. The molds it imported, if used, will result in an increase in production. However, the pileup of production has caused the plant to falter, and has led to confusion in its activity and a low level of cash liquidity for operating activities. This difficulty will be repeated if the bodies concerned continue not to draw on their share of the factory's production.

Electricity Projects

The Wadi Hadramawt Electricity [Authority] has carried out the following: pylons erected, 458; high tension wire, 78,550 meters; low tension wire, 38,331 meters; transformers installed, 25 kilovolt amperes, 20, 50 kilovolt amperes, 12, 7 kilovolt amperes, one, and 150 kilovolt amperes, two; high tension fuses, 87, and low tension fuses, 99.

On the line from Jul Mashah to Fuwah, in the district of al-Mukalla, which the branch of the General Electric Power Authority is building, actual construction has come to 100 percent in the line from the Jul Mashah area to the electric plant in the October section of al-Mukalla. The remainder of this project, which is to end in the Fuwah area, will be completed in the last quarter of this year.

Reinforcement of the al-Mukalla system: this has faltered somewhat because the limited number of electricity workers have been diverted to other recently created jobs.

The installation of the ground system in the Khalaf section of al-Mukalla: the branch has finished preparing preliminary specifications to start work on the system, and a bid has been prepared for the construction of part of the system, which will go from the electric plant in Khalaf to the site of the fish cannery in the same section. The engineer is now preparing an integrated study on the area's system on the basis of designs prepared previously.

Water Projects

Al-Mukalla water: the hydrological engineer in the project is performing a field tour of the sites of the stations for measuring rainwater and flood levels and the observation wells in the three watercourses of Huwayrah,

Buwaysh and al-Khirkbah, on the basis of a schedule prepared for this purpose.

Study wells: All the test wells stipulated for study work have been drilled; the second well in Wadi al-Khirkbah is left, and the drilling is being completed there.

The work of installing the administration building for the General Water Authority branch in the October section of al-Mukalla has been completed, and the branch has received the completed depot from the company doing the construction.

Fire hydrants and preventive sprinklers have been installed in the various sections of al-Mukalla. Two small storehouses have been built for the storage of equipment.

Rural water projects: The sums carried forward for the project at the end of the third quarter came to 25,000 dinars, which were distributed among a number of rural projects, in order to improve water conditions in them.

Say'un water: In this project, the following has been accomplished:

320 pipes in the water project system of the Madudah region have been 80 percent replaced.

The replacement of water for housing in Say'un (installation of 139 pipes) has been 107 percent completed, and 540 pipes of various sizes have been brought in from Aden.

Oil Company Projects

The National Oil Company, Hadramawt Governorate branch, is carrying out three projects this year:

The fuel oil tank: two stages of the metal walls for the heavy fuel oil tank have been installed.

Construction of a plant to distribute fuel in the Jul Mashah area, al-Mukalla district: the cornerstone for this project was laid last October.

The gas loading unit: Measures are still underway to get in touch with a foreign company to perform the project work.

Ground tanks: The company's branch in the governorate received four tanks in the past two quarters, and these have been installed. The rest of the tanks set aside for the governorate have yet to arrive.

Development in the Level of Construction

Our brother Najib Bukayr, the acting director of the planning unit in Hadramawt Governorate, told 14 UKTUBAR:

"We can state that a perceptible development occurred in the level of project construction in the third quarter of this year. The activities the masses of the people in the governorate have received have accompanied the 20th anniversary of the revolution and the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and they have advanced many projects on which work had been faltering toward completion. We would like to point out that the amendments of the third year's plan were carried out during the third quarter of the third year of the amended second 5-year plan, in August 1983. The projects which have been presented included these amendments."

11887

CS0: 4404/261

PROGRESS NOTED IN PRODUCTION OF FRUIT AND SEEDLINGS

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Dec 83 p 2

[Article: "Success Achieved in Seedling Production and Growing"]

[Text] The fruit development project is one of the new economic forms of agricultural development. It has achieved several objectives, including efforts to develop fruit production and ways to encourage farmers to continue growing new fruit trees while caring for the old ones. Such steps are represented in providing essential elements for fruit tree growing and seeking the help of competent marketing agencies in marketing production and providing farmers with guidance and advice in the whole process of crop management, from the planting stage all the way up to the harvesting stage, so as to guarantee good quality and production.

From its inception not too long ago, the project has contributed to growth in the fruit tree planting business as well as to efforts made to create specialized fruit farms. The project has made good progress in carrying out its plan, both from the point of technical assistance and services to farmers to the aspect of preparing and growing seedlings. As a result of outstanding accomplishments this year exceeding last year's accomplishments, it came in first place in production contests and was awarded the shield of the province.

Project official Muhammad 'Ubadi reviewed this year's progress, up to the month of September, in the field of seedling growing and cultivation. The project has accomplished many objectives in this domain, including the planting of 20 kilograms of bitter orange seeds at the "Ludur" agricultural research center, yielding 7000 seedlings, some of which have already been distributed. Six feddans of lemon have been planted in the al-Mu'tamar farm and in some production units of the Zanzibar agricultural cooperative where about 7,000 seedlings were planted during the first season, whereas the [original] plan called for 5 feddans. Regarding seeds, 5 kilos of lemon seeds were collected from state farms, and 13 feddans at the al-Mu'tamar farm were planted with papaya. Distributed were 100 bags of urea fertilizer to the al-Mu'tamar farm, the Mudiya cooperative and al-Qawz farm.

The second season witnessed good progress as well: 7 kilograms of lemon seeds were planted at the Sudur agricultural research center, yielding 3,000 seedlings, whereas the plan called for 5 kilos; 4,000 orange seedlings were grown at the

Ludur nursery where the project restored old trellises used to protect the seedlings and built new ones, and also prepared new areas at the Mudiya cooperative for citrus fruit production. Comrade Muhammad 'Ubadi confirms that the third season of the current year witnessed a rise in seedling production: 30 kilos of papaya seed, yielding 60,000 papaya seedlings for distribution to state farms and cooperatives, were planted at the project's al-Kud nursery; 15 feddans of papaya were planted at the Zanzibar cooperative; and 20 feddans at al-Mu'tamar Rabi', farm 5, at the Lenin farm. Although the plan called for planting 30 feddans, a total of 40 feddans were actually planted. In addition, 10 feddans of mango were planted at the al-Mu'tamar al-Rabi' farm and 3,000 bitter orange seedlings were grafted at the Ludur nursery.

Progress is expected to grow as well in the last season, which is almost over. This is a positive indicator of the project's success in developing and expanding the fruit growing industry.

In this respect, the project has a farm called al-Asal farm which produced 40 tons of oranges this year. The Ludur, Mudiya and al-Kud research centers have also produced considerable amounts, a testimony to the good quality of seedlings planted. Seedlings planted in state farms and cooperatives will add to fruit production, thus playing a role in meeting long-term market demands, if the project receives enough financial support to develop and augment its activities. Many accomplishments have been realized in the field of fruit development in Lahij and Hadramawt governorates where the project is providing nurseries with seedlings and fruit seeds for seedlings for distribution to state farms and cooperatives. For example, 63 feddans were allocated last year in Lahij governorate for the production of 34,160 seedlings of various kinds to cover the fruit growing development program in the province and to supply seedlings to state farms and cooperatives. The total number of seedlings grown was 46,437 plants of mango, papaya, guava ('at), ('abbasi) and grape. The number of seedlings distributed to state farms and cooperatives were 25,652, including 996 mango seedlings, 19,417 papaya seedlings, 2,285 ('at) seedlings, 51 ('abbasi) seedlings, and 620 grape seedlings. Five state farms and four cooperatives on the governorate level and a number of nurseries and other facilities made use of them. Great progress has also been made in the province this year in the field of seedling preparation and planting, thus offering conclusive evidence that a bright future awaits fruit production in the country where citizens will be able to reap sweet fruit and tangy vegetables from this productive land.

12502

CSO: 4404/263

MODERNIZATION OF TOMATO PROCESSING PLANT PLANNED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Basit Sururi]

[Text] Next January work will get underway on installing modern machinery in the tomato processing plant within the framework of a plan aimed at modernizing the plant and raising its daily production from the present 100 tons to 150 tons.

In a statement to the newspaper, comrade Muhammad Hamadi, director general of the plant, explained that a new line for the production and manufacture of cans, presently imported, will be opened. He said the new line will produce between 300 and 400 cans a minute automatically, thus meeting the needs of local plants which import such cans from the outside, like the fish cannery in Shaqrah.

He emphasized that the new machines already coming in will make it possible to deal with the various stages that hinder plant production in a way that will confer honor and distinction upon national industry and reduce labor costs. He said that the plant, in cooperation with the ministry of industry, intends to start production following the tomato-growing season by importing tomato paste out of season in order to keep up production to meet local needs, thus reducing imports of this commodity.

12502

CSO: 4404/263

PROBLEM OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATION INDEBTEDNESS HIGHLIGHTED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR AL-USBU'I in Arabic 23 Dec 83 pp 4, 5

[Article by 'Ali Muhammad 'Abdallah: "The Indebtedness of the Government Sector, between Oblivion and Aggravation"]

[Text] The problems of accumulated indebtedness are now among the most prominent of the complicated issues the government sector organizations and utilities are suffering from, because the dealings between creditors and debtors lack many of the conditions which would guarantee that public money will revert to the government treasury, and some public organizations and utilities have been deprived of cash liquidity and have been transformed into credit banks that have no guaranteed allocations. Encouraging the emergence of this serious phenomenon, which has an effect on the activity of our domestic economy, have been the debtors' exploitation of the administrative and financial circumstances of creditors, the absence of legal and accounting rules in many government utilities and organizations, and the mediocrity of administrative decisions, which are hedged about with repeated requests and recommendations which are no longer convincing to put a limit on the manipulation of public money and the failure to be careful about paying off the debts owed to the government, which statistics show amount to millions!

The question to which we are seeking an answer is, where have these massive sums gone, where are they going, how have they been used and exploited, why have the allocations to some facilities been exceeded, and when will they be paid back?

I was astonished to follow up on the answers of the General Electric Power Authority, the General Tourist Activity Organization and the General Water Authority and face bitter facts with figures and a sense of anxiety about the fate of this money, which has gone with the wind!

Electricity: Accumulated Debts Owed by State Farms

In the General Electric Power Authority, our brother Eng Anwar Suhuli, director general of the authority (government sector) puts the main consumers in a list and says that this sector's rate of consumption of electric power

comes to 65 percent, mostly consisting of debts, accumulated since 1967, owed by the state farms, government cooperatives and organizations and some general companies and mass organizations.

He points out that the total value of these debts up to October 1983 came to 3.3 million dinars. The state farms and cooperatives are in first place among them in terms of the volume of accumulated debts and the failure to pay, followed by some ministries and other government organizations.

Al-Suhuli asserts that more than once the authority has pursued the activity of cutting off electricity as a legal means for getting its money back, but it has come up against written guarantees from responsible bodies in the government and has restored the current again, without result.

The authority's director considers that these guarantees were not offered to solve the problem, but rather encouraged them to become exacerbated, for the reason that the bodies which are in debt to the authority now view the issue of guarantees as a passport for evading the measures the authority is taking from time to time to get back the debts others owe it.

The administration states that it appreciates the concern of our brothers the party and government leaders and their responsible stand toward public money, public property, and the activity of the state farms and cooperatives, but in any event it considers that its responsibility is to seek guarantees which will basically ensure that the debts others owe it are repaid.

Our brother al-Suhuli asserts that since mid-December the authority has been engaged in cutting off electricity to bodies which have not paid off their accumulated debts, and current will be restored only by agreement between the authority and the body against which it adopted the cutoff measure.

The authority replies that it welcomes the notion of scheduling the accumulated debts owed by others, on condition that the other parties commit themselves to it and that 100 percent payment is made for the power consumed.

1.5 Million in Tourist Activity Loans

In the Tourist Activity [Organization], 'Ali ibn Shibh, the deputy general director of financial affairs, raises the same appeal for assistance and asks the Ministry of Culture, the government information and education committee and the Yemeni Peace Council to pay the accumulated debts they owe, which have been due the General Tourist Activity Organization since 1980.

We read, with the deputy director, that the value of the debts others owe which are due the Tourist Activity [Organization] total 1.5 million dinars. As of the end of 1980, they began at the sum of 650,000 dinars, in 1981 rose by 370,000 dinars and in 1982 as much as 400,000 dinars. From these figures it is clear that 70 percent of the Tourist Activity [Organization's] dealings were with government organizations on a term basis (long-term loans), and the Tourist Activity [Organization] now is a tourist enterprise that cannot pay its own way and is on the verge of a financial deficit because

part of its income is still in the hands of others, being retained by prior insistence. The Tourist Activity [Organization] states that it wants the debts due it to be repaid in full, because the body that supplies it deals with it in reciprocity and is requesting a basis for dealing in cash, not term payments; however, the other side replies, "no allocations!"

The General Tourist Activity Organization has taken a position on this. It demands, before any discussion, that the debts incurred in 1983 be paid off in full and it has intensified rapid measures in all its hotels and facilities belonging to it to avoid dealing with the bodies that have been put on the black list. In fact, as I learned from the deputy director, these measures have been carried out to the letter, guaranteeing that halls or rooms not be reserved and meals and drink not be offered unless the body concerned has paid off all the debts it owes to the organization for 1983. It has been stipulated that the debtor body, when proceeding to make reservations, pay a cash guarantee as a deposit that is equal to the stipulated reservation period, and that the amount of the guarantee be deducted if it is not possible to make payment. The measures also stipulate that all reserved rooms are to be vacated and dealings are not to be conducted with people whose installations' names appear on the blacklist, until an agreement is set out guaranteeing the instalment payment of their accumulated debts. The Tourist Activity Organization has stipulated 1 January 1984 as a basis for transactions involving submission of a money deposit and advance payment.

The organization underlines [sic] these legal measures as having the goal of reclaiming the debts that others owe it by virtue of the fact that the body financing the Tourist Activity [Organization] also demands that transactions be made in cash rather than over time. The Tourist Activity [Organization] states that repayment of these debts will improve the financial status of the organization and will provide the cash liquidity that will help the organization carry out its plans, taking the place of the tendency toward loans to establish tourist projects, on grounds that these loans are expensive and constitute a great burden on tourist activity.

The Instalment Repayment of Accumulated Debts

As for the General Water Authority, that is luckier than the government creditor sectors, since it has got back most of its debts from others, which came to 800,000 dinars, then dropped to 550,000 dinars, consisting of late payments which are being deducted in instalments. Most of these late payments have been carried over since 1976; the amount of these debts covers the value of water consumption, which some utilities and organizations have delayed paying. Through the adoption of measures to cut off water meters, 40 percent of the debts owed the authority have been reclaimed, and the remaining late payments have been converted to instalment payments.

The Internal Trade [Company]: Refusal and Evasion!

The Internal Trade Company was one of the three organizations and utilities on which our investigation into the matter of indebtedness and the reason for the accumulation and the fate of the debts focussed. However, it appears that there are people in the company who are afraid to state the truth in

detail on this subject, even though theirs is the most burdensome of the bodies in terms of the magnitude of the debts it owes others, which amount to millions. We do not want to assert the magnitude of the sum here so much as to draw attention to the seriousness of ignoring the truth and evading [payment] dates which serve a noble purpose in the first place; the company management understands this, as it has totally supported the appearance and development of the public sector. However, we do not know if there was a design in Jacob's spirit when the director general refused to talk to the editor or persuade him that this refusal was justified. We innocently ask, what does this position serve, honorable director?

Debts Are a Problem

The figures officials in these organizations mentioned amount to millions of dinars. The discussion in their regard was concentrated on some people's anxiety, which they spoke about warily, while others "gave the purse its string," as the common expression has it, and yet others feared that part of this indebtedness would be forgotten because of other people's failure to pay, and thus that the public property would indefinitely fall between oblivion and aggravation because of the mistaken notion of dealing with such government organizations as the Credit Bank. These creditor organizations, as we know, have commitments toward their own plans, and they need cash liquidity in order to cover expenses and engage in development activity. Without these conditions, public money will go to waste.

11887

CSO: 4404/261

BRIEFS

AIR TRAFFIC INCREASE--An official source in the Civil Aviation Department told AL-RAYAH that aircraft arrivals and departures at Doha international airport in 1983 witnessed a substantial increase over the preceding year, since in the course of 1983 19,720 airplanes arrived, for an increase of 17 percent in comparison with aircraft arrivals and departures in 1982. Passengers coming to Doha international airport came to 396,208 in number, or a substantial drop of 3 percent in comparison with the previous year, in terms of passenger arrivals in Doha. Passengers departing the country in 1983 came to 405,213, or an increase of 9.5 percent in comparison with 1982 in terms of passenger departures. The official source went on to say that in the case of transit passengers passing through Doha international airport, their number came to 3,814,451, or an increase of 6.7 percent in comparison with 1982. On the movement of goods and air parcels coming in through Doha international airport, the source said that that came to 18,064 tons, or an increase of 15.6 percent in comparison with 1982. Goods and air parcels exported from Doha airport came to 4,747 tons, or a drop of 5.1 percent relative to 1982. [Text] [Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 17 Jan 84 p 2] 11887

CSO: 4404/296

HAMAH GOVERNOR REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT IN PROVINCE

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Mahmud al-Hammud: "Rectification Leader Outlined Features of Developmental Revolution for Building Modern Syria. Fifteen Billion Syrian Pounds Invested in Industrial Projects in Province; Corrective Movement Provided 30,000 Jobs in Industrial Sector"]

[Text] "During the years of the glorious corrective movement, the Hamah province witnessed a growth that included various fields. Factories and economic establishments were built and tens of agricultural and construction projects were undertaken to effect a radical change in the social and economic life of this province." These are the words of Dr Muhammad Khalid Harbah, governor of Hamah. He added:

"The corrective movement built a strong modern Syria, a Syria that says 'yes' when it is to its advantage and that of the Arab nation as well, and says 'no' when it is not. The rectification movement under the leadership of comrade Hafiz al-Asad has been able to realize significant accomplishments in Hamah Province, thus realizing a civilizational boom that covered all fields."

Great Contribution in Industrial Field

More than 15 billion Syrian pounds have been invested in the industrial sector in Hamah Province since the rectification movement began, represented in factories and economic establishments, some of which are as follows:

- The Afamiyah tire factory, at a present cost of one billion Syrian pounds.
- The porcelain and sanitary equipment factory, at a cost of 600 million Syrian pounds.
- The iron bars, metal pipes and scrap metal smelting factory, at a cost of 800 million Syrian pounds.
- The fine textile factory, at an overall cost of 800 million Syrian pounds.
- The al-Ghab sugar factory in Salhab at a cost of 250 million Syrian pounds.
- Cement factories I and II at a combined cost of 800 million Syrian pounds. Their daily output is 1,400 tons of black cement.
- The onion drying factory that has 850 permanent and seasonal employees and an annual output of 22,000 tons.

- The wool factory, at a cost of 30 million Syrian pounds.
- The shoe factory in Misyaf.
- Development of the oil and tobacco factories.

These economic establishments were able to absorb 30,000 workers, thus eliminating unemployment in the province. This industrial growth had a positive effect on the province's social life. These factories were able to absorb all the labor force in the province where there are no visible or convincing signs of unemployment; 30,000 workers are presently employed by the factories, clear and scientific proof that Hamah Province is an industrial province.

Construction Development

The president's great contribution to Hamah Province had a great effect on the creation of a modern city. The province had a construction boom in which housing cooperatives took part by building several housing projects. There are presently 6,500 residential apartments under construction in the suburbs of al-Fada', Tishrin and al-Ba'th. Also under construction are 1,500 residential apartments for workers. New areas have been introduced to the city's zoning plan and residential apartments are constantly being distributed to those whose homes are torn down to build new streets.

After we made the necessary studies, new zoning plans for the city were drawn up to absorb population growth until the year 2010 for a planning area of 2,600 hectares.

Health Development

Hamah Province has made progress in the health field. A 300-bed hospital has been built and equipped in Hamah and construction on al-Asad health complex is underway at an estimated cost of 40 million Syrian pounds. This complex includes a hospital and four surrounding clinics. Another new hospital has been opened in al-Salmiyah area and two hospitals are under construction in the al-Suqaylabiyah and Misyaf areas, in addition to the hospital in Muhradah. A comprehensive clinic and a new nursing school are under construction in the city. The 5-year plan included the building of ten sophisticated health centers in the province's villages.

Linking the Countryside to the City

The corrective movement afforded significant attention to linking rural areas to urban areas. In Hamah Province, an advanced rural area linked to the city has been created, and by then end of 1983, all provincial villages will be linked to urban areas and main highways by a new highway system. We have also assigned a number of internal transportation buses to undertake 85 daily runs between the villages and the city.

Last Village Lighted This Year

The plan to illuminate the countryside has come a long way in this province. By the end of this year, electricity would have reached all the various villages and the remotest population centers in the province.

Agriculture

Leader al-Asad's support of the agricultural movement in the country, and his concern with agriculture has led to the expansion of the agricultural area in the province and to subsequent growth in agricultural products. During the corrective era, the al-Ghab Plain was developed and its irrigation and drainage canals made longer. Thus, sugar cane production has grown from 94,000 tons in 1981 to 540,000 tons in 1983, and cotton production for this year was more than 100,000 tons.

The March of Education in Hamah Province

The corrective movement devoted special attention to the education sector in order to create a socialist Arab generation committed to national causes. The educational reality in Hamah Province calls for optimism in a promising future. In the field of school construction, many elementary, secondary and high schools, in addition to vocational schools, teachers' colleges, veterinary college auditoriums and other institutions, have been built. The province has 736 elementary schools, 177 secondary schools, 155 high schools, a teachers' college, a veterinary college, a dentistry college, a veterinary school and 10 technical schools.

The university campus, which cost over 10 million Syrian pounds and can hold 250 university students, is in the process of being furnished and equipped.

Irrigation Projects

On instructions from the president during his visit to the city of Hamah, a sweet water project in Hamah was undertaken at a cost of 100 million Syrian pounds. Numerous artesian wells were drilled in rural and desert areas and water pipes extended to a large number of villages. The Salmiyah area irrigation project has also been completed, along with its reservoirs and pumping stations, at a cost of 15 million Syrian pounds. The Nab' al-Barid water project, which brings water to 14 villages, has been completed as well at a cost of 15 million Syrian pounds. Water has been provided for dry villages and new residential areas and a number of rural irrigation projects, about 24 of them, have been completed.

Many Utilities and Services Projects

In the rectification era, services and utility projects reached different parts of Hamah Province. New roads have been opened and the four city approaches have been organized and equipped with squares and green islands. Stone fences have been built around most city parks. The 'Asi River course has been illuminated, historical barrages have been renovated and lakes and new parks have been built. Several new bridges have also been built over the al-'Asi River at a cost of over 50 million Syrian pounds. A 10-kilometer

axial road linking the north and east parts of the city is underway at a cost of 64 million pounds and other axial roads around the city are being built. A large tourist hotel, a new train station and a new cultural center in the city are in the planning stage at a cost of 59 million pounds, as well as two cultural centers in Suran and al-Salmiyah, at a cost of 6 million pounds.

Growth of the Investment Budget

The Hamah Province investment budget has grown considerably at the behest of the leader. The province's investment budget for next year is 248 million pounds for projects, as compared to the 1976 investment budget of 44 million pounds only. In 1982, the city of Hamah gained President Asad's approval to get 218 million pounds outside the budget.

Inexhaustible Giving

The leader's contributions to this province, whose people work sincerely and loyally for the leader's march, keep growing day by day. We confirm that what has been achieved for Hamah Province under the rectification movement is many times more than what was achieved from the independence era up until the movement. We say, for posterity's sake, that the president drew up modern, well-considered outlines that will extend for a long period of time into the future.

12502

CSO: 4400/200

TOUR OF AL-FURAT BASIN PROJECT

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Nov 83 p 5

[Article by Wa'il Barakat: "New Official Tour to Inspect Reclamation and Investment Project in al-Furat Basin"]

[Text] On the occasion of the commemoration of the corrective movement, Mr Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for service affairs, visited the two cities of al-Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr, during which he innaugurated some projects, inspected others under construction and laid the cornerstone for yet another group of projects.

The tour began in al-Raqqah Province where one cannot but notice the very tangible social, agricultural and civilizational changes and clearly perceive the hard work that went into the province's development and improvement in the standard of living. There is no better proof than those endless projects at al-Furat basin, an area that has experienced past instability brought on by threats from the river on one side and the desert on the other side.

Reclamation of Maskanah Gharb Basin

The first stop was at the Maskanah Gharb basin project located in the western part of al-Furat Basin near Aleppo. Mr Hamdun laid the cornerstone of the main canal project for irrigating the Aleppo and Maskanah Gharb plains.

This project, aimed at reclaiming 57,000 hectares, was undertaken in cooperation with the USSR with a view to developing irrigable and exploitable agricultural land by pumping water from al-Asad Lake. It is made up of three stages:

The first stage includes construction of an irrigation, drainage, levelling and road system. A large portion of this stage's earthworks and cement works has already been completed, in addition to metal and drainpipe installations, distributed as follows:

1. Irrigation canals lined, 35 kms; suspended, 984 kms.

2. Drainage system: sumps, 228.5 kms; covered drainage ditches, 1,274 kms; and open ditches, 137.7 kms.

3. Earthworks: digging: 1,073,000 cubic meters for the irrigation system; 11,366,000 cubic meters for the drainage system. Filling: 7.742 million cubic meters for the irrigation system; and 9.844 million cubic meters for the drainage system.

4. Volume of cement works: 190,000 cubic meters for the irrigation system and 31,000 cubic meters for the drainage system. The second stage includes reclamation of 20,000 hectares. Completed to date have been 60,000 cubic hectares of earthworks and 215,000 cubic meters of cement works. The third stage includes reclamation of 17,000 hectares. This stage was given second priority after the first two stages. It is common knowledge that this project will irrigate surrounding land and is combined with a plan to channel water to the Aleppo plains through a pumping station with a capacity of 93 cubic meters per second and a main aqueduct 72 kms long that flows into the Khan Tuman reservoir south of Aleppo.

Maskanah Sharq Project

In Maskanah Sharq, Mr Hamdun laid the cornerstone of the 17,800 hectare reclamation project in Maskanah Sharq, located near the town of Maskanah. It is spread out between the two Provinces of Aleppo and al-Raqqah. The net area of irrigation is 17,800 hectares which will be irrigated from al-Asad Lake through a pumping station with a capacity of 25 cubic meters per second and a main irrigation canal that forks into two branches, east and west. The former irrigates an area of 10,000 hectares in the eastern part and the latter, an area of 7,800 in the western part. Both parts include an agricultural and residential complex estimated at 9 villages with a population of about 45,000.

The main pumping station is composed of 6 pumps with an individual capacity of 5 cubic meters per second. The main aqueduct is 916 meters long and its outflow is 25 meters per second with a trapezoidal ford made out of reinforced concrete.

The east canal is 6.8 kms long with a flow of 3.14 cubic meters per second; the west canal is 11.7 long and its flow is 3.11 cubic meters per second. They both have a ford similar to that of the aqueduct.

These canals branch out into a group of concrete sub-canals 33 kms long, concrete sumps 47 kms long and a group of secondary canals 97 kms long.

The main drainage ditches are 70 kms long; the secondary ditches, 117 kms; and the sump ones, 393 kms long. Covered ditches made out of plastic are 6,000 kms long. The estimated overall cost of this project is about one billion Syrian pounds.

Muqallah and Bu-Hamad Water Project

In Muqallah, Mr Walid Hamdun innaugurated the Muqallah pumping station that irrigates 7,000 hectares, 1,600 of which are used for rice growing. This project is a part of the al-Furat middle basin which was undertaken in cooperation with Romania. The project's main canals are 29 kms long; the subsidiary and secondary canals are 269 kms long; the sump [drainage ditches] are 73 kms long; and the secondary ones, 177 kms long. The covered drainpipes are 170 kms long. The volume of the main works was distributed as follows:

- Filling of various canals, 2.7 million cubic meters.
- Digging of various ditches, 2.1 million cubic meters.
- Earthworks for ground levelling, 2.2 million cubic meters.
- Cement and canal lining works, 60,000 cubic meters.

The pumping stations includes four electric pumps each with a 3.6 cubic meter per second capacity and a 400-kilowatt capacity. The Maqallah project has two water resuction pumps which are:

- The third resuction station that has 5 pumps, each having a 0.7 cubic meters per second capacity and an outflow of 3.5 cubic meters per second.
 - The fifth resuction station that has 3 pumps, each having a 0.3 cubic meters per second capacity and an outflow of 0.9 cubic meters per second.
- Overall cost of the project is about 460 million Syrian pounds.

Besides the Maqallah project, Mr Walid Hamdun innaugurated a water project in Bu-Hamad. It irrigates 14 villages with an estimated population of 7,000 people and cost 9 million Syrian pounds.

Visit to Al-Ba'th Sluice Dam

During the tour, the deputy prime minister inspected the progress of work at al-Ba'th sluice dam where he listened to an elaborate explanation about the status, difficulties and means for overcoming the difficulties involved in such a huge project aimed at reducing fluctuations at al-Furat River behind the al-Furat Dam from 5 meters to 50 cms after the dam is completed. It will also contribute to the production of between 10 and 12 percent of electric power in the country at an annual average of 30,000 kilowatt hours.

The dam is 3,080 meters long and its average width is 10 meters. It consists of a sand dam on the right bank of the al-Furat River, an electric power station with three horizontal turbines 7.5 meters in diameter, and eight floodgates--almost 4.6 million cubic meters have been dredged hydraulically, 130,000 cubic meters of ditch projection works and 183,000 cubic meters of cement work.

It is noteworthy that the dam stores up water originating from al-Furat dam within 24 hours and distributes it steadily. In other words, it controls water coming daily from the dam, thus protecting surrounding lands and villages from harm. This huge project is expected to be completed by the end of 1985, according to the director general of the Land Reclamation Company, at a cost of about 850 million Syrian pounds.

Inspection of the al-Ballikh Canal

Before leaving al-Raqqah, the deputy prime minister inspected work at al-Ballikh canal project composed of six parts, only the first of which is underway. The canal at this part is about 18 kms long and has a drainage rate of 140 cubic meters per second. It can easily deliver water from the irrigation outlet on the left shoulder of the al-Furat Dam to irrigate an area of 100,000 hectares in al-Ballikh basin. Delivery begins at kilometer 18 where the canal branches out across a trunk canal 917 meters long with 13 ferries and three bridges with sluice gates.

Work volume at the canal is around 19 million cubic meters of earthworks and 140,000 cubic meters of ordinary and reinforced concrete. High technical specifications are being followed since it is the largest and most significant canal in the al-Furat project. Thus, it has been designed and carried out with high technical guarantees such as the use of rubber foils, industrial felt and drainpipes.

This canal is expected to be finished by the end of next year at an estimated cost of 160 million pounds.

Dayr al-Zawr Mill

When Mr Hamdun's tour in the two cities of al-Raqqah and al-Thawrah was over, he left for Dayr al-Zawr where he inaugurated one of the important and vital economic projects in the province: the modern al-Furat mill which Mr Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of supply and domestic trade, described in a speech he delivered at the inauguration ceremonies as a new step forward in Syria's economic development during the years of the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. He added that this great accomplishment represents another link in the country's food security. The country had already put 8 other mills into use and is determined, according to Mr Ghabbash, to set up 11 mills in various provinces in cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Germany. The al-Furat mill is composed of the following main sections:

- The receiving section which contains grain storage sheds with a storage capacity of 10,000 tons of wheat.
- The cleaning and panning section which contains the various technological equipment and tools for washing out, sifting and moistening grains.
- The milling section which contains 24 million machines, in addition to sieves, pestles, winnows and steelyards, used for the various stages of milling.
- The filling and blending section which contains automatic filling steelyards, automatic serving machines, flour mixing machines, and special storage sheds with an overall storage capacity of 720 tons of flour and 120 tons of bran.
- The storage section which stores flour sacks ready for distribution. Its storage capacity is 30,000 sacks.

[These are] in addition to other sections such as the electric, mechanics and diesel sections.

The mill employs about 150 employees and is the ninth out of ten mills to be put into production. These ten mills have an output capacity of 3,000 tons a day.

The mill's overall cost was about 50 million pounds and its daily output capacity is 250 tons of flour for three work shifts, 200 tons of which are grade A.

These are the most outstanding projects included in the deputy prime minister's visit which covered other projects such as the athletic hall in al-Raqqah, the cultural center in al-Thawrah, the afforestation of al-Asad Lake, and the laying of the cornerstone for 12 housing units in al-Raqqah.

However, there is no room here to cover them all despite their importance.

12502

CSO: 4400/200

COTTON PRODUCTION STATISTICS SHOW RISE

Cotton Fair in Aleppo

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Oct 83 p 5

[Article by Faydallah al-Ghadiri: "Hamah, Aleppo, and al-Raggah Win the Contest Held to See Who Produced the Best Cotton"]

[Text] Under the aegis of the Corrective Movement the cotton industries have achieved great progress which has led to an increase in the yield and production of cotton.

Syrian cotton is very prominent in the world markets and there has been a great increase in the volume of exports [of Syrian cotton].

The final prediction concerning cotton production is 450,000 tons of raw cotton this year, as compared with 356,000 tons which was the production of last year's crop.

Under the patronage of our leader Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, the 28th cotton fair was recently held for 3 days in the city of Aleppo. This was a fair whose activities during the second day were transformed into an exciting national festival which demonstrated the truth concerning the relationship which exists between mankind and his land as well as the degree of commitment in terms of sweat, effort, and persistence which the Syrian people have concerning their soil, their nation, and their country.

The person representing the president at the fair was Comrade 'Ammash Juday', minister of agriculture and agrarian reform. The speeches that were given at the inauguration ceremony made reference to the scientific approach which has been very carefully followed by the government within the framework of an agricultural orientation which is continuously being directed toward following a sound policy with regard to cotton production. This policy is based on encouraging local scientific research which can allow us to increase our nation's cotton crop by means of utilizing mechanization and

both horizontal and vertical agricultural expansion as an approach in the future which will be in harmony with our national, economic, and social aspirations and ambitions.

One of the activities of the fair--the third and last day of which was devoted to visits to historical and archeological monuments in Aleppo and neighboring provinces, since this has become a tradition, the purpose of which is to have the fair's Arab and foreign guests come to know the real facts about our ancient past and our immortal civilization--was the holding of a large official inauguration ceremony on the steps leading to the main hall of the National Library. During this ceremony, people who won production championships and outstanding agricultural cooperatives were honored. The second day of the fair also witnessed a large parade which lasted more than 3 hours. This parade saw the participation of brass bands, bands with percussion instruments, token groups of people representing federations of workers, peasant farmers, young people, Vanguards [al-tala'i'], and women, athletic, scout, and folkloric groups, students from the School of Nursing and the Institute of Physical Education for Girls, and carnival floats representing the business and activities carried on by various agricultural and industrial firms and organizations in Aleppo and the provinces.

In Connection With the Fair

At the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony, the Higher Cotton Fair Committee, on the basis of the decisions and recommendations made by the 16th Cotton Congress in 1982, the letters sent in by the Directorates of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in the provinces, and the official report of the Central Committee, announced the names of the winners of this year's production contest--both groups and individuals. The committee also announced the names of the top three nationwide winners in this contest, and they were the following: 1) the al-Jayyid cooperative in the district of al-Ghab in the province of Hamah; 2) the Tall Hadiya cooperative in the Jabal Sam'an area of the province of Aleppo; and 3) the Husayn al-'Anun Jazarah farms in the al-Khuwayjah area of the province of al-Raggah.

The winning cooperatives were given seeding machines for planting cotton, and individuals who were winners in the contest were given machines for carrying out irrigation. These prizes were given in order to honor them and in order to provide them with an incentive. After the large parade which saw the participation of 25 floats with beautiful and expressive artistic designs, the winners of the float contest were announced. The following enterprises were the ones which had the winning floats: 1st place - the Syrian Commercial Bank in Aleppo; 2nd place - the Seed Supply Organization; and 3rd place - the Euphrates Tractor Company. Both of the latter two firms also do business in Aleppo.

Covering the Events

The joy which predominated on the faces of people who were standing on the balconies and in the streets all during the days of the fair gave me an incentive to find out some facts concerning the history of cotton production

in the world and gave me an incentive to roam all around the fair in order to take individual photographs which would show both a general picture and details of the fair's activities and in order to interview some of the people who work in the various phases of the field of growing and harvesting cotton. I did this in order to be able to provide a clear and accurate picture of this entire activity--beginning with the preparation of the cotton and ending with the marketing of the cotton. The result is the following report:

Syria Is Where Primitive Agriculture Began

Eng Ratib Jabir, director of the General Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization in Aleppo, had the following to say: "On the basis of inscriptions, archeological finds, translations of writings, and drawings carved into columns, walls, and temples left over from ancient time, it has been established that, even during prehistoric ages, Syria occupied an important and prominent place in the fields of agriculture and industry. furthermore, Syria is the place where wheat was first deliberately planted as a crop."

Eng Jabir went on to say: "We know for a fact that Syria was the place where primitive agriculture began. Both wild wheat and wild barley grew spontaneously and naturally in Northern Syria and Palestine. Most likely the first steps taken toward deliberately planting crops occurred during the sixth millennium B.C. or slightly later than that time.

"As for cotton, the Phoenicians were the second Semitic people who played an important role concerning that crop in the history of ancient Syria. In many of the tablets and inscriptions that have been discovered, the textile industry is mentioned as being one of the cottage industries ordinarily pursued in the homes and residences of the ancient Syrians. Archeologists have run across traces of spindles and looms made of stone, bone, and clay whose history goes back to the third millennium B.C. The (Nuzi) document, for example, mentions the fact that cotton, originally a plant from India, was brought to Assyria by King Sennacherib, and cotton then reached Greece via the Phoenicians during the early part of the Hellenic Age, and from Greece it then spread to the rest of the world--bearing the Arabic name for the substance."

Syrian Cotton Today

"The planting of cotton begins in the latter part of spring of each year, and the operation of picking cotton begins in the middle of September. This whole operation continues until the end of November. The cotton farmers then once again start preparing their lands and fields for the next agricultural cycle. As they do so, they utilize knowledge gained from their previous mistakes in order to avoid actions which might affect the production and yield of their future crops."

Eng Jabir went on to say: "The growing of cotton in Syria is currently concentrated in the central and northeastern areas of the country. The

total land area set aside for the growing of cotton amounts to about 160,000 hectares. Approximately 99 percent of this land is irrigated, and the remainder is non-irrigated land which depends on rainfall."

In reply to my question concerning the size of the raw cotton crop and the average production per unit of area planted with cotton during the last 3 years, Eng Jabir said: "There are many circumstances which both positively and negatively affect the size of the cotton yield from year to year. They include, for example, differences in the areas which have been planted, protection of the soil, and factors of nature which influence the crop such as humidity, temperature, wind, and rain which contribute to the fact that cotton production is something which varies and is unstable. If we estimate the average production of unginned cotton per hectare as being 2,659 kilograms, then the yield for an area of 158,779 hectares will total about 422,222 tons of raw cotton. This figure constitutes the total production for the 1982-83 crop season, as compared with 355,871 tons for the 1981-82 season and 322,819 tons for the 1980-81 season."

The Base Year

"Agricultural offices in the country did not regard cotton as an important crop in any of the years during the turn of this century. During the period between 1900 and 1912 our cotton production never exceeded 1,500 tons. It was in 1933 that Syria first became acquainted with (Lone Star) cotton--a strain of cotton that is both economical and of high quality. But our cotton production did not really get established and expand until the early fifties. In fact, 1951 is considered to be the base year for any comparisons drawn for the purpose of scientifically and accurately determining the phases of the development of cotton production in Syria.

"During the years which preceded the beginning of the stabilization and expansion of cotton production in Syria, our cotton yield was generally low. There was a lack of expertise, a lack of high-quality strains of cotton to plant, and there was a lack of technical personnel and agricultural experts. All of these factors were responsible for the fact that the crops were poor and they led to a decline in the growing of cotton in Syria.

"Although 1949-50 was a year when the cotton yield was very high--527 kilograms per hectare--it was in 1968 that we saw the real beginning of the advanced phase of growing cotton in Syria and the organization of industries revolving around cotton. This was the year which saw the creation of the Federation of Textile Industries which commenced its job of supervising the weaving establishments and spinning mills which were put under its administration. These industrial activities achieved great progress under the aegis of the (Ba'th) revolution and the Corrective Movement and they have constituted means of production which have played an important role in building up our country economically and in the pursuit of the path toward total transformation which the country has chosen for itself.

"The approach of regarding progress in agriculture as being the key to Syria's entry into the industrial revolution--particularly after the

establishment of the Corrective Movement--has been responsible for the fact that [agricultural] establishments have steadily increased their production. This is why it was inevitable that there would be progress in building up the cotton-based industries which utilize the products taken out of the cotton by cotton gins, and this has led to the development of the industry in our country which makes vegetable oils, soap, and dyes. This development was necessary in order for the growing of cotton to take on both the vertical and horizontal expansion which it has assumed and for the end result to be our nation's entry into the phase of optimum utilization of agricultural industries."

Very Prominent in the World Markets

"We still do not know how successful our 1983-84 crop has been this year. The trucks and other vehicles used in the countryside are still moving along the nation's roads and highways, carrying their loads of 'white gold' to wherever they are supposed to transport them. Experts in the General Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization in Aleppo estimate that the total production for the current cycle will be about 450,000 tons. As of 12 October 1983 350,000 tons had already been turned in."

Eng Jabir added: "Syrian cotton is distinguished by the fact that it has a high degree of durability and ripeness as well as a high degree of homogeneity in its fibers. This has helped to establish its place in the world markets and has been responsible for the fact that it has continually found new markets as a real competitor which has a good reputation, is of high quality, and finds ready customers. "During the 1981-82 season our exports to the Soviet Union, China, and the free-trade nations totalled 83,327 tons of cotton. By way of comparison, our exports to these same nations totalled 110,768 tons in 1982-83. This year, however, we have larger commitments and contracts, and we will be exporting our cotton right after the operations of picking the cotton and ginning it."

Concerning production by cotton gins in Syria, Eng Jabir had the following to say: "The cotton-ginning industry in our country has undergone great development because of the requirements of the world market and its great eagerness to purchase our crop production. The type of cotton gins which use saws is the chief type that we use right now. We have 16 such cotton gins distributed throughout the provinces of Aleppo, Idlib, Hims, Hamah, Dayr al-Zawr, and al-Hasakah. All of them have a high production capacity and are operated in accordance with modern scientific and technical principles which are in line with the development of this industry which is based on a proper and realistic understanding of our nation's geographical and agricultural situation."

Storing Cotton in the Open Presents No Problem

I asked Eng Jabir whether or not his organization had problems in the realm of storing the crops, and he said: "We have no problem in this regard. The storage capacity of our present warehouses is sufficient for critical periods when our crop production reaches its peak."

When I retorted that there were quantities of cottonseeds and cotton which were being stored in the open, he reassured me that the cotton which was being stored in the open was only cotton which had just been picked rather than cotton which had already been ginned. He said that cotton is stored like this in the open for 2 or 3 months--the period between November and January--and that no harm could come to the crop as long as the operation of transporting the cotton to the cotton gins is continuous. He said that, because of this, there is no problem!

Going Back to the Beginning

Mr Jabir went on to say: "The first cotton fair was held in Aleppo in 1956. Ever since then cotton fairs have become a tradition in Aleppo which has [virtually] acquired the force of law. These cotton fairs are considered to be the celebration which marks the culmination of the economic effort of producing cotton which begins in the fields and on the farms and which ends with the cotton being stored in warehouses in the form of bales ready to be exported to places both inside and outside the country. But these festivals also have objectives of their own, the most important of which are the following:

1. Advertising Syrian cotton both inside and outside the country.
2. Acquainting both our own citizens and guests at the fair who are both Arabs and foreigners with the importance, high quality, and characteristics of our cotton crop.
3. Encouraging cotton growers--both as groups and as individuals--to expand their planting of cotton in order to increase our nation's cotton crop.
4. Enhancing the status of cotton as a source of national wealth in our national economy."

In response to a question concerning the possibility of holding such fairs in the rural areas or right in the fields where the production takes place, Mr Zuhayr Tahhan, director of the Advertising Department in the General Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization in Aleppo, said the following: "This is something which is up to the Higher Cotton Fair Committee. This body alone is the one which decides such a matter. However, I agree with you in principle and it seems to me that this is a sound proposal. Rural areas are where the production takes place, and the people in these areas have the right to experience the culmination of their efforts right in the fields where the production takes place--even if this is done only once every few years."

Will this actually come to pass?

Table 1. Final Cotton Gin Production Figures (from the Beginning of the Season Through 30 June 1982 and 30 June 1983)

	<u>Last Season's Production (Through 30 June 1982)</u>	<u>Current Season's Production (Through 30 June 1983)</u>
Unginned cotton delivered to gins (tons)	355,871	422,222
Unginned cotton actually ginned (tons)	355,871	422,222
Cotton fibers produced by gins (tons)	131,672	157,995
Cotton fibers produced by gins (bales)	658,360	775,919
Seeds produced from ginning this cotton (tons)	224,199	264,227

Table 2. Cottonseed Production Figures (from the Beginning of the Season Through 30 June 1982 and 30 June 1983)

	<u>1981-82 Season</u>	<u>1982-83 Season</u>
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Surplus as of 1 September	-	-
Cottonseed crop production (final estimate)	220,500	264,227
Total cottonseed production	220,500	264,227
Cottonseed allocated for planting	20,000	23,952
Industrial cottonseed production	200,000	240,275
Cottonseed delivered to local oil presses	192,890	222,671
Leftover cottonseed	7,610	17,604

Table 3. Total Area Planted in the 1982-83 Season, and Final Production Estimates for the Provinces

Province	Total Area Actually Planted (Hectares)		Final Production (Tons)		Yield Per Hectare (Kilograms)	
	Irrigated	Non-Irrigated	Irrigated	Non-Irrigated	Irrigated	Non-Irrigated
al-Hasakah	40,000	-	40,000	115,913	2,898	-
Dayr al-Zawr	24,033	-	24,033	50,736	2,111	-
al-Raqqa	26,718	-	26,718	61,036	2,284	-
Aleppo	23,893	1,483	25,376	71,444	2,990	1,000
Idlib	3,941	803	4,744	8,517	2,161	1,000
Hamah	9,598	-	9,598	30,060	3,133	-
al-Gaab	22,178	55	22,233	65,779	2,966	1,000
Hims	3,072	7	3,079	7,168	2,333	1,000
Damascus	2,998	-	2,998	9,218	3,075	-
Total	156,431	2,348	158,779	419,874	2,684 (average)	1,000 (average)
						2,659 (average)

Production Third Worldwide

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 Oct 83 p 4

[Article: "Syrian Cotton Occupies Third Place in the World"]

[Text] It is anticipated that the nation's production of unginned cotton for the current session will total 450,000 tons. A statement was made to this effect by the director of the Cotton Bureau. He went on to say that the total area planted with cotton this year was 167,000 hectares. He added that, this year, 100 agricultural experiments had been conducted with cotton at research stations in the provinces of al-Raqqah, Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hims, and Hamah, as well as in the district of al-Ghab. In addition to this, some experiments were engaged in by a number of peasant farmers. These experiments included research dealing with the soil and with methods of obtaining the best strains of cotton as well as new strains of high-yield cotton--with the characteristics of the various cotton-growing areas taken into account. A study was also made concerning the best times of the year for planting cotton. Furthermore, types of cotton were derived which are more resistant to plant epidemics and insects which attack cotton.

He went on to say that the cotton crop produced by Syria occupies third place in the world in terms of its quality and suitability for industrial and other uses and in terms of its high yield. He added that Syria's cotton crop occupied sixth place in the world in 1981.

Production Figures

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 8 Nov 83 p 4

[Article: "Export of About 112,000 Tons of Syrian Cotton"]

[Text] Since the beginning of the cotton-picking season, 282,000 tons of unginned cotton have been produced by the various provinces of Syria and delivered to the cotton gins of the General Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization in Aleppo. By way of comparison with this figure, the amount of cotton produced during this same period of time last year was 249,000 tons.

This statement was made yesterday by the director of the Cotton Bureau in Aleppo. He added that mechanized cotton-picking experiments had been successfully carried out and that these experiments will be applied nationwide on an expanded scale during the next few years. Furthermore, commitments made from the beginning of the cotton season till the middle of last month to sell Syrian cotton have totalled 112,255 tons of cotton. The figure for the same period of time last year was 83,327 tons of cotton which were exported to the various nations which import Syrian cotton.

In addition to this, contracts have been drawn up between the General Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization and edible oils firms in Syria to sell

these firms the entire production of this season's industrial cottonseeds. It is estimated that the total cottonseed production will be more than 240,275 tons. The figure for this production last year during the same period of time was 198,540 tons.

Al-Raqqah Province Market

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Dec 83 p 4

Article: "Great Increase in Cotton Production"]

[Text] The operations of picking and marketing cotton are continuing in the province of al-Raqqah. The total amount of cotton marketed so far has been 68,000 tons. This is in addition to the cotton marketed by the Euphrates Basin Investment Organization, which has totalled 3,300 tons. It is estimated that the province's cotton crop production this year will be 78,000 tons when cotton-picking operations have concluded. This is 20,000 tons above what the quota was. The province's cotton production last year was 57,000 tons. In addition to this, the province is also involved with the operations of keeping track of sources of corn as well as shucking and drying the corn. So far a total of 1,250 tons of corn have been harvested. Harvesting operations are still going on, and the production target is an estimated 2,500 tons. As for sugar beets, 22,000 dunams were planted with this crop during the fall planting season. According to the plan, a total of 28,810 dunams were planted with sugar beets during both the fall and spring planting seasons.

The province's Anti-Illiteracy Bureau is also continuing its preparations for opening up adult education centers in both the rural areas and towns of the province. This is being done in cooperation with the peasant farmer and youth organizations. Since the beginning of September preparations have been made for opening up 200 such centers. Most of them have already begun functioning. Also the process of selecting participants for 50 of the centers is going on right now. This selection process involves a total of 1,500 persons, and 589 persons have already been selected--and this includes 100 female participants. The plans of the Anti-Illiteracy Bureau have the objective of opening up a center in every school--both in the rural areas and in the towns. This is to be done in cooperation with the educational apparatus [word illegible] compulsory education.

9468

CSO: 4404/208

PROVINCES CARRY OUT IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Al-Shaykh Miskin, Dar'a Province

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 26 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Yesterday morning, the executive office of the department of local administration held a meeting in which issues and concerns of the department's offices and organizations were discussed. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Muhammad Rafiq Mustafa Miru, governor of Dar'a. The status of work and implementation of its projects were reviewed in light of this year's investment plans.

Reports on fieldtrips taken by members of the executive office revealed the stages of completion on the projects. The executive office also discussed topics which it will present to the governorate council at its fifth regular session for this year, which is scheduled to convene on the fourth of next month. Appropriate decisions were made with regard to requests, submitted by departments and municipalities, which were discussed at the meeting.

The regional office of education at Dar'a continued its meeting under the leadership of Comrade Muhammad Ayyub, member of the branch party's command, until all educational issues were discussed. It also discussed issues of interest to the Vanguard of the Ba'th organizations in the schools and specified areas of work for educational leaders.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Barmu, secretary of the Vanguard branch put before the office a plan of work and activities for the Vanguard for this scholastic year as well as the necessary steps for accomplishing this plan.

Workshops belonging to the technical services administration in conjunction with a branch of the Jabal Qasiyun company and the military have completed paving 82.5 kilometers of the following roads:

--Al-Qaniyah Jasim--13 kilometers;

--Al-Sanamayn Khabab--8 kilometers;

--Dar'a Ghazalah--16 kilometers;

--Faqi' Mahajjah--5 kilometers;
--Al-Na'imah Umm al-Mayadin--6 kilometers;
--Busra al-Jazah--5 kilometers;
--Al-Musayfirah Al-Karak--9 kilometers;
--Al-Karak Umm Walad--6 kilometers;
--Qaytah al-Harah--12.5 kilometers;
--Al-Thurayya Ankhal--2 kilometers;

This was stated to AL-BA'TH 'Abd-al-Karim al-Ahmad, director of technical services.

Al-Sarik Irrigation Works Company has received work orders for the al-Sahykh Miskin dam irrigation network and has already begun constructing the network, which will irrigate vast areas.

Northern Nahr al-Kabir, al-Ladhiqiyah

Damascus AL-BA'ATH in Arabic 31 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Engineers have completed laying out the final designs for the overall operations of the dam at Northern Nahr al-Kabir except for those dealing with exploiting and monitoring the performance of the dam's installations.

The director of land reclamation at the irrigation ministry, Eng Madrak Al-Siraj, added that exploratory work is being performed, as planned, on the first segment of the network which lies in the river valley in an area estimated at 2,500 hectars. Engineers will finalize the plans for this area before the end of the year and will undertake exploratory operations for the northern section which lies between the al-Ladhiqiyah-Kasab road and the Kasab--Burj al-Salam road. The completion date is expected to be within the upcoming months, as scheduled.

Al-Siraj pointed out that the ministry will be utilizing the sprinkler system as a modern method of irrigating the remaining section of the network, estimated at 10,000 hectares. An agreement has been concluded with the executory party on a list of modern equipment necessary for performing these studies. A completion time frame not to exceed 24 months has been set for this section.

He also said that the purpose of erecting the dam, located 25 kilometers northeast of al-Ladhiqiyah is to irrigate 114,000 hectares of land belonging to the governorate and to insure 30,000 cubic meters of reserve drinking water for the city of al-Ladhiqiyah, in addition to restructuring the course of the river and controlling the flooding which causes excessive damages to property and to agricultural produce and erodes good soil away from vast areas of fertile lands. Completion date for all construction work is expected

by the end of 1985. Up to 210 million cubic meters of water will be stored forming a lake measuring 11 square kilometers stretched out over a distance of 11 kilometers. The size of the dam at its top will measure 854 meters at a height of 52 meters. The earth moving operations will reach 7 million cubic meters with 150,000 cubic meters of cement works.

It is worth mentioning that foundation drillings in the irrigation and drainage operations of the dam will reach 20.9 million cubic meters with 17.3 cubic meters of fill operations, in addition to 220,000 cubic meters of concrete, 29.5 kilometers of steel pipes, 470 kilometers of "eternite" pipes and the installation of 885 kilometers of plastic pipes.

9770

CSO: 4404/199

SHARP COMMENTS NOTED ON LOCAL ECONOMIC STAGNATION

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Dec 83 p 6

[Article by Riyadh Miqdadi: "Local Economic Stagnation. Khalifah al-Nabudah: Media Hubbub Over Austerity Led to Decrease in Investment. Partial Recovery if Government Debts to Contractors are Paid."]

[Text] Various economic activities in the country that achieved record growth rates in the seventies have witnessed considerable recession for the second consecutive year while all available indicators confirm that stagnation will be even worse in the coming year (1984).

While the whole world is talking about an imminent economic recovery in industrial countries with visible signs in the U.S., it is unknown when economic stagnation will come to an end in the UAE where bankers say that it might go on for many more years due to the fact that the causes of local economic stagnation are different from those of world economic stagnation.

We will attempt here to present the views of a number of officials, big businessmen and bankers on economic stagnation in the UAE, how to curb it and how to speed up recovery.

Well-known businessman Khalifah al-Nabudah says that the causes of economic stagnation in the UAE are well-known now: world stagnation, less government spending due to lower oil revenues and the Iraqi-Iranian war. But the most important factor contributing to prolonged stagnation are government austerity measures coupled with a concentrated media campaign, in addition to accumulated government debts to contractors and importers.

Al-Nabudah explained that lower spending and day-to-day statements about austerity measures in some ministries, including the service ministries, "has created very low morale among investors and owners of capital, as well as consumers with negative effects on most economic activities in the country, especially trade and real estate."

He added: "How can I invest my money in a real estate project (residential building, for example) when I hear from time to time about government employees losing their jobs? Who will live in that building? Naturally, not the citizens. Therefore, no use in setting up a housing project." He went on: "This is the

way owners of capital who got the idea to invest part of their money in the depressed real estate sector think." Moreover, government austerity measures and the media campaign associated with them has also affected the trade sector considerably. Foreign exporters are hesitant to deal with local merchants--who until recently had a very good reputation world-wide--thus greatly affecting merchants' interests.

Without Hubbub

Al-Nabudah explained: "We are not against austerity measures. The government has a right to adopt measures it deems in the interest of the country and the citizens. However, these measures could have been carried out over a longer period of time and without hubbub, which would have softened their negative impact on economic activities in the country. He pointed to government debts to contractors and importers, estimated at over 2 billion dirhams, saying that release of these debts will lead to market stimulation, partial though it may be, because not only contracting firms will benefit from these payments, but also all other sides associated with those companies, like banks, merchants, building material factories, etc.

Basic Factors

Al-Nabudah emphasized that his words about austerity measures and debts to contractors do not mean to ignore other basic factors "dealt with in detail by the local press in recent months" that contributed to stagnation.

He said economic stagnation in the UAE will not end unless causative factors are brought to an end and "there is nothing on the horizon pointing in that direction."

About business loans and the possibility of merchants and companies getting out of the market, al-Nabudah said: "Some merchants borrowed large amounts of money in recent years on the basis of continued economic activity in some field. However, a halt in such activity got them in deep trouble and they have not been able to get out of it. Merchants' outstanding debts to banks are estimated at over 5 billion dirhams.

He added that "trade stagnation exposed the newcomers to this vital sector but the old merchants were not hit by it as hard as others."

He explained that only merchants with experience and a financial base will be able to stay in the market. Those who got on the bandwagon during recovery have sustained immeasurable heavy losses and many of them will get out of the market in coming months.

Al-Nabudah pointed out that the fact that some foreign companies (trade and contracting) have left the market while other companies are winding up their activities in the country will not have any negative effects because the benefits to most of these companies themselves greatly outweighed benefits derived by the country.

Local Industry

He confirmed that in recent years national companies with enough experience and qualifications to carry out any projects assigned to them have emerged.

At the conclusion of his talk, al-Nabudah demanded a review of existing local industries before considering setting up an industrial sector as one more national income tributary. He said small projects (workshops) cannot be called factories! He pointed out that any industrial project needs complete feasibility studies prior to implementation, after which the government will have the responsibility; of supporting and protecting local industries that meet world standards.

12502

CSO: 4404/241

LABOR SECTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1983

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 7 Dec 83 p 8

[Article by Mahir Kayyali: "Labor Sector Accomplishments in 1983: Amicable Settlement of 95 Percent of 13,154 Labor Disputes, Routine Cancellation of 47,436 Bonds and Confirmation of 124,090 Work Contracts for Aliens"]

[Text] The number of labor disputes examined by labor dispute sections in the various departments of the ministry of labor and social affairs during the current year was 13,154,566 of which were collective complaints, with 95 percent being settled amicably. This is according to a report on labor accomplishments prepared by the ministry.

The report included achievements in labor relations, work permits, hiring and training department, labor inspection department, industrial safety, legislation and international relations.

With regard to labor relations, comprising labor disputes and bond cancellation for alien workers, the dispute sections examined 3,344 notifications of workers evading their sponsors and took action in accordance with valid regulation manuals. Also, 14 labor strikes against sponsors were settled by returning workers to their jobs first, then looking into the reasons for the strike. Problems between the two sides were settled in accordance with the provisions of the law, while warning workers not to resort to such strikes again and to take their grievances to the competent labor department, should they have a reason for complaint, after choosing a representative to follow up the matter with the labor department.

Dispute sections looked into requests from sponsors or the labor inspection department to deport some alien workers. All requests for the application of ministerial directive No 3 of 1983, pertaining to the enforcement of the ministry of labor-ministry of the interior joint committee's recommendations regarding application of cabinet resolution 849 of 1982, invoked upon the death of the sponsor or when the establishment is sold or undergoes a name change, were also discussed. Also discussed was the matter of cancelling business and professional permits of establishments going out of business, after ascertaining that these establishments were not sponsoring any alien workers and directing the municipality not to oppose the cancellation.

About cancelling bonds for alien workers, 47,436 bonds were cancelled in the various labor departments of the ministry as a routine step to end their employment, in addition to cancellations due to deportation in accordance with a legal decision by competent dispute sections. Routine cancellations are usually standard procedures based on expiration of contracts or are brought about, in rare cases, by the death of the sponsor or the sponsored subject or by the establishments ending their operations.

Work Permits

This department and its branches in other labor departments examines requests by establishments to bring in workers they need. Requests are submitted to the department or its branches, then referred to the control section which looks into the matter to ascertain the applicant's real need for workers. When need is established, the labor department approves bringing in the workers upon posting the required bank guarantees with respect to visas included under this bond.

Work permit sections issue work permits, each within its jurisdiction, to every alien worker upon arrival in the country, in accordance with Paragraph XII of Law No 8 of 1980, based upon procedures established in ministerial writ of execution No 23/1 for 1981 and its amendments after establishing legal entry and the existence of a contract with the sponsor in accordance with rules and regulations. These sections also renew work permits after establishing continued employment with the sponsor. They also replace lost or damaged permits in accordance with valid rules and procedures.

Finally, these sections cancel permits of workers who leave the country on leave or the like and do not return within 6 months of their departure. The competent audit section is informed of the cancellation so as to cross it off the establishment's card.

The hiring and training department includes the contract, licensing and alien hiring sections. The contract and licensing sections have authorized 124,000 work contracts for alien workers, either for the issuance of a work permit or the renewal of existing ones upon establishing their legality. They have also approved 26,570 foreign contracts for workers already working or who will be working in the country. These contracts certify the sponsor's signature and the legality of their terms. They also look into requests to change jobs or adjust salaries provided for in the contract in accordance with regulations and procedures explained in the valid contract, licensing and regulations manual.

Citizen hiring sections register citizens seeking employment in companies and private establishments. The Dubai section has registered 510 citizens, 219 of whom were recommended for jobs in private establishments. In Abu Dhabi, 133 citizens have been nominated for jobs in Abu Dhabi establishments. In al-Fujayrah, seven citizens were recommended for jobs with al-Fujayrah companies and in Ra's al-Khaymah, the section recommended two Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] citizens for jobs in Ra's al-Khaymah companies. The citizen hiring section at al-Shariqaj labor office recommended 17 GCC citizens and 8 Yemeni citizens. It also attached 51 citizens to al-Shariqah establishments. All these

sections recommended many students for summer jobs in private establishments and followed up this matter until they were actually hired.

In the field of training, the training contract for Dubai Aluminum Company employees in Jabal 'Ali was received and the department participated in the meetings of the vocational training committee of the ministry's planning department which follows up citizen training in the country's private establishments in implementation of resolution 71/1 for 1983.

Labor Inspection Department

The labor inspection department is an agency that oversees enforcement of law No 8 for 1980 and its writs of execution. This department is charged "under the law" with sending law violations to trial and following up such cases until judgment is passed. Department watchdog sections examine the size of the work force in the various establishments applying for permission to bring in alien workers in order to ascertain the seriousness and real need and to reject unwarranted requests. Labor inspection sections, in cooperation with the interior ministry, undertook 6211 inspection campaigns affecting 6,461 establishments to apprehend violators because some workers work for other than their sponsors. Apprehended were 3,709 workers, the violators deported and their employers brought to trial. Labor inspection sections also receive notifications from labor relations sections about violations brought to light during investigation of labor disputes and also labor inspection complaints which are investigated and settled in the field.

The department and its various branches visited 6,461 establishments uncovering law violations in 436 of them; 205 establishments were served notice to stop existing violations. The visits were undertaken by 311 inspectors.

The department also referred 457 establishments to trial for violations after filing violation reports with the competent authorities for necessary action.

The number of alien violators taken into custody during field visits was 3,709 workers, 369 of whom were released upon investigation and 2,976 deported.

The department referred to the cancellation section 435 cases for cancellation pending deportation and the immigration department received 226 violations of the immigration and naturalization law for appropriate action.

In the field of industrial security, the following accomplishments were achieved in 1983:

- Preparation and printing of the executive regulations manual in the field of industrial security.
- All special inspection, re-inspection and accident and injury forms were prepared, printed and put into effect.
- Three industrial safety inspectors were assigned to Dubai, the northern emirates and Abu Dhabi. They initiated field visits inspecting 186 establishments as of October 1983. Written reports were sent to these establishments.

- A study was prepared for presentation at the second seminar for car accidents to be held in Abu Dhabi in March, 1984, under the title "Work Environment and Its Effects on Truck Accidents."

- Following a meeting between the ministry's undersecretary for labor affairs and the director general of civil defense, a formula was drawn up for coordinating work between the two sides in the field of industrial safety.

- Special industrial safety, educational and informational material--movies and posters--were purchased from a British firm.

- In the foreign field, the ministry joined the follow-up office of the council of labor and social affairs ministers in preparing an exploratory study about the Gulf Arab Institute for Industrial Safety Studies.

Legislation

To wind up the legislative series of ministerial orders, ministerial order 31/2 for 1983 was issued concerning on-the-job training for citizens following a debate with the fatwa and legislation department of the ministry of justice about its final form. Also, ministerial order 2/1 for 1983 was issued concerning the posting of bank bonds, when issuing individual or group visas for alien workers, equal to the cost of a return ticket to be used to send workers home when sponsor is unable or unwilling to send them back to their country at his own expense when their work is over. Administrative and ministerial directives, including special labor instructions and regulations, were also issued. The most important one was directive No 3 for 1983 concerning implementation of the labor ministry-interior ministry joint committee's recommendations pertaining to preventive measures to be adopted in the event of the sponsor's death or the establishment's sale or change of name. A regulation manual for ministerial order 2/1 for 1983, dealing with bank guarantees, was also issued in clear steps explaining ambiguities, in addition to a manual explaining the work of the contract and licensing sections which has already been put into effect. A procedural manual for the labor inspection department has also been prepared and will be put into effect to ensure job efficiency and organization.

International Relations

In 1983 the accomplishments of the foreign relations department of the labor and social affairs ministry were represented in participation in international, Arab and Gulf conferences. On the Gulf level, the department participated in the following:

- The fifth session of the Arab Gulf countries' council of labor and social affairs ministers, Muscat, January, 1983.

- The meeting of labor and social affairs advisors of the Arab GCC, general secretariat, Riyadh, April, 1983.

- The meeting of the committee of labor and residency law specialists in the Arab GCC member states, Bahrain, May, 1983.

- The sixth session of the committee of Arab Gulf countries' labor and social affairs advisors, Baghdad, September, 1983.

- Meetings of the committee for the designations, frameworks, structures and jurisdictions of labor and social establishments and agencies in Arab GCC countries, General Secretariat of the GCC, Riyadh, November, 1983.

On the Arab Level:

- Seminar on schooling for children of Arab immigrant workers held by the Arab Labor Organization in Paris, January, 1983.

- The eleventh session of the Arab labor conference, the Arab League Organization, Amman, Jordan, March, 1983.

- The scientific seminar on labor inspection affairs, Arab Labor Organization, Baghdad, January, 1983.

- Meetings of the 13th session of the Arab Labor Organization's board of directors, Baghdad, April, 1983. During this session, the UAE was elected chairman of the board in the person of Ahmad 'Atiq al-Jumayri, undersecretary for labor affairs.

- The Arab training session on Arab work force planning and employment opportunities, held by the Arab Labor Organization, Baghdad, April, 1983.

- Seminars on developing statistical data related to immigration in Arab countries, Arab Labor Organization, Tunis, June, 1983.

- Seminar on regional studies and research held by the Arab Employment Institute of the Arab Labor Organization.

- The first Arab seminar for those working on the Arab employment and labor force information program to complement the regional program for the development of an Arab system for Arab labor force information, held by the Arab Labor Organization, Kuwait, June-July, 1983.

- The 14th session of the Arab Labor Organization's board of directors, September, 1983.

- The meeting of the tripartite committee, stemming from the Arab Labor Organization's board of directors, charged with making a complete evaluation of the organization's work and developing the organization's structures and methods of operation, October, 1983.

- Signing the cooperation agreement between the country and the Iraqi Republic, November, 1983.

- Seminar on the information program on the employment and labor forces in the Arab nation, held by the Arab Employment Institute of the Arab Labor Organization, Amman, November 1983.

The second meeting of the aforementioned tripartite committee will be held in December, 1983, and the training course for work force statistics in the Arab nation will be held by the Arab Employment Institute of the Arab Labor Organization at Tangier, Morocco, in December, 1983.

At the international level, participation was represented in:

- The 9th conference of the ministers of labor in Asian and Pacific countries, Tokyo, Japan, January, 1983.
- The seminar for the regional Arab project for guiding employment in cooperation with the International Arab Organization, Geneva, January, 1983.
- The 69th session of the international labor conference, ILO, Geneva, January, 1983.
- The meeting of the Asian advisory committee, ILO, Geneva, November, 1983.

12502

CSO: 4404/241

RECESSION SPREADS IN COUNTRY, AGGRAVATING PRICE IRREGULARITIES

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 56, Jan 84 p 50

[Article by Suhayr al-Saba': "Duties on Luxury Goods Increase While Prices of Foodstuffs Rise"]

[Text] The increase in customs duties in the emirates has led to a rather strange phenomenon. As a result of the increase, prices of foodstuffs have risen, even though they are exempt, while the prices of luxury goods and assembled commodities have dropped although the duties cover these. Why is this?

Now that about a month has elapsed since the application of the increase in customs duties in accordance with the resolution of the Gulf Cooperation Council calling for the unification of customs tariffs among the six member countries, its effects on the local market have started to become apparent and take concrete form in a manner that is nearly the opposite of all expectations.

The increase in customs duties which began to go into effect on 6 November comprised only 40 percent of imported goods, which one could list under luxury goods such as cars, electric equipment, clothes, perfume, cosmetics and alcoholic beverages, while all imported foodstuffs were exempted from this increase. Indeed, the new law eliminated the 1 percent which had been imposed on food imports, out of the desire to lighten the burden on consumers and to carry out Article Two of the unified Gulf Cooperation Council country economic agreement.

It was expected that the merchants would raise the prices of the goods on which customs duties had been increased, making the consumers bear the burden for them, and that they would reduce the prices of the goods on which customs duties had been imposed. However, what happened was completely the opposite.

The markets went through a state of confusion following the announcement on the new tariffs, but the situation now is on the verge of becoming stabilized, although in a manner no one had been expecting. This is because the prices of foodstuffs on which tariffs were eliminated started to increase,

rising to 120 or 130 percent of their previous level at times, but consumers could not refrain from buying them because they constitute basic daily needs, and that encouraged merchants to raise prices.

Economic circles believe that the local merchants, by this behavior, are applying the principle of "imposing one commodity on another." When they failed to impose the added tax on the person consuming the commodity the tax had been imposed on, they found no way to avoid imposing it on the consumer of the other commodities on which customs duties had been eliminated, seeking the aid of the limited elasticity of demand for foodstuffs and daily requirements whose prices are increased.

Since the prices of foodstuffs were relatively meager compared to the prices of the other commodities on which the customs increase was imposed, the merchants decided to raise the prices of the foodstuffs by a rate greatly in excess of the additional tax, which has been no greater than 4 percent on the average.

With respect to the luxury and assembled goods on which the customs increase was imposed, their prices have not witnessed any increase; rather, to the contrary, they have continued to drop. This trend started at the beginning of this year, accompanying the wave of recession the country is going through.

Calculating that an impression would be created among consumers that prices had increased after the declaration of the increase in duties on them, many merchants exploited the opportunity to declare further reductions, in the hope of stimulating the course of sales and realizing a greater amount of liquidity. For the first time, the country became aware of such advertisements as "in spite of the increase in customs, we are reducing prices," "special prices on the occasion of the customs increase" and others in which the commercial firms, especially those which sell cars, furniture and ready-made clothes, have vied with one another.

Mr Ahmad Faqihi, a merchant in Dubai, said that the recession has prompted merchants to dispose of their inventory, if only at prices below cost. Therefore, merchants who agree to reduce the prices of commodities to 60 percent of the sales price in hopes of encouraging purchasers to buy them will not try to recoup the 4 percent increase in the duties on them, because the rate is a minor one and applies only to a specific kind of commodity which consumers can easily go without buying for years.

He added, "Since 95 percent of the merchants in the emirates deal in general commerce, which allows each of them to deal in cars, furniture, rice, soda water and so forth, they find the best solution is to shift the increase in duties over to the goods which it is easy for them to sell, even if their prices increase. Merchants, in economic custom, are just middlemen who must not pay the increase in the costs of commodities to the consumer."

In spite of this illogical defense, all expectations are that the situation in the market of the emirates will not regain its equilibrium even if economic life is revived. The reason is that there is no government body

overseeing the prices of foodstuffs and setting a profit margin. Indeed, it is expected that the prices of the two categories, that is, foodstuffs and luxuries and assembled goods, will rise. One should bear in mind that no one expects economic activity to return to its former level in the near future, in view of the obscurity surrounding international oil conditions.

11887

CSO: 4404/296

FOREIGN SERVICE TRANSFERS ANNOUNCED

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Abu 'Abdah]

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah issued a number of orders providing for the transfer and promotion of 61 diplomats at the foreign ministry's headquarters and diplomatic missions abroad.

Transfer orders affected 16 diplomats, including Hasan Salim al-Khayyal, first secretary of the embassy in Somalia, to the UAE embassy in France; 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hadi, first secretary of the UAE embassy in Spain, to the UAE embassy in Islamabad; 'Isa Muhannah, second secretary at the ministry's general office, to the UAE mission in Egypt; Hamad Sa'id al-Za'bani, second secretary at the ministry's general office, to the UAE embassy in Japan; Sultan al-Kaytub, second secretary at the ministry's general office, to the UAE embassy in Mogadishu; Khalfan 'Ali al-Basari, third secretary at the ministry's general office, to the embassy in Baghdad; Sultan Abu Ghafrah, third secretary at the ministry's general office, to the embassy in Libya; Muhammad Ja'far al-Zu'abi, third secretary at the embassy in Jordan, to the embassy in Jiddah.

Orders included promotions for 45 diplomats, including: Hasan al-Khayyal, Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, Yusuf al-Sharhan, Ahmad 'Abdallah Ibrahim, Jasim al-Shaykh, Khalifah al-Gharbi, Jum'ah al-Muraykhi, 'Isa Muhannah, Hamah Sa'id al-Zu'abi, Muhammad 'Abd-Al-Rahim, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Zu'abi, Sultan al-Khaytub, Khamis al-'Atlah, Ahmad Manqush, 'Isa 'Abdallah al-Mas'ud, 'Isa al-Basha, Muhammad al-Ta'i and Sultan al-Qirtasi.

12502

CSO: 4404/241

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN EACH EMIRATE SURVEYED

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 28 Dec 83 p 6

[Article: "Chamber of Commerce and Municipal Secretariat Report: Industry Suffers from Eight Problems in the Emirates"]

[Text] A report prepared by the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the General Municipal Secretariat has indicated that industrial installations in the country were suffering from eight major problems, with each Emirate suffering to a differing degree from each problem, according to the following:

Abu Dhabi:

The report made clear that the first problem is the increasing level of rents. Of 55 industrial facilities in the Emirate, 37 of them are suffering from increased rents, that is 67 percent. The second problem in order of importance is the severity of internal competition (60 percent) and then foreign competition (49 percent) and the decrease in demand for goods along with the increased price of raw materials, scarcity of financing, increased prices of spare parts, the cost of water and energy.

Dubayy:

The report indicated that the major problem is foreign competition. There are 49 industrial facilities out of 87 suffering from this problem, or 56 percent. Following this are other problems such as the severity of internal competition (49 percent), increase in rents (45 percent), increase in the cost of raw materials (39 percent), decrease in demand for goods (33 percent), lack of financing (24 percent), increase in cost of spare parts (24 percent), increase in the cost of water and energy (22 percent).

Al-Shariqah

The principal problem from which the Emirate of al-Shariqah is suffering is the severity of foreign competition, as 39 out of 93 facilities have this problem, or 42 percent, followed by: intensity of internal competition (34 percent), decrease of demand (33 percent), increase in rents (29 percent), increase in the price of raw materials (28 percent), lack of financing

(20 percent), increase in the cost of water and energy (15 percent), and increase in the cost of spare parts (15 percent).

'Ajman:

The principal problem is the increase in the cost of spare parts, followed by the increase in the cost of raw materials, rents, decrease in demand, increase in the cost of water and energy, and lack of financing.

Umm al-Qaywayn:

Two industrial facilities were questioned, and they both suffer from all of the problems mentioned equally.

Ra's al-Khaymah:

The problems in order are increase in the cost of water and energy (56 percent), severity of foreign competition and internal competition, decrease of demand, increase of rents, increase in the prices of raw materials, lack of financing, and the increase in the prices of spare parts.

Al-Fujayrah

Increase in the cost of water and energy, spare parts, lack of financing, increase of rents, and the increased prices for raw materials.

12390

CSO: 4404/240

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA DISCUSSED

Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 6

[Article by Riyadh Miqdadi: "Austrian Secretary of State for Commerce and Industry to AL-KHALIJ: 350 Percent Increase in Commercial Exchange Between the Emirates and Austria During 4 Years; The West Cannot Do Without OPEC Oil"]

[Text] Erich Schmidt, the Austrian secretary of state for commerce, industry, energy, and tourism, confirmed the determination of his country to support a cooperative economic relationship with the Emirates, and he pointed out that commerce between the Emirates and Austria has shown measurable growth during the past years.

This comment came in an interview held by AL-KHALIJ with the Austrian minister during his visit to the country last week. Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] How do you see the development of economic relations between Austria and the Emirates?

[Answer] Economic relations between Austria and the Emirates go back to the beginning of the seventies, and they have seen great progress during this period. Trade has increased about 350 percent during 4 years, reaching 228 million dirhams as compared to less than 65 million dirhams during 1978.

Economic relations were crowned by the signing of an economic cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Austrian exports include transportation equipment, food, medicines, clothing, chemicals and consultant services, while Austrian imports oil from the Emirates.

[Question] What are the results of your discussions with state officials?

[Answer] They were very positive since they sought to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in all areas. One of the most prominent subjects which we discussed was the strengthening and support of commercial exchange and the possibility of Austrian companies participating in the implementation of development projects in the Emirates in the areas of education, public utilities, energy, agriculture, and animal husbandry.

Austrian companies have already actually implemented numerous projects in the Emirates.

[Question] What percentage of Austrian exports go to the Middle East?

[Answer] The countries of the Middle East and especially the Gulf states comprise one of the most important export markets for Austria in the world. We are taking pains to expand this market, by studying its needs for industrial goods.

[Question] To what extent has Austrian economy been affected by world economic recession?

[Answer] Austria is not isolated from the rest of the world and has been affected as have others by the world economic recession, except that thanks to the policy of a "socialist government" Austria has been able to lessen unemployment and inflation to low levels compared to such figures recorded in other Western countries.

In addition the Austrian budget for the year is positive.

[Question] What about balance of trade?

[Answer] The Austrian balance of trade is still negative despite an increase in exports, which has reached 3 percent during the current year, compared to an average world growth rate of zero.

The value of Austrian exports jumped from 74 billion shillings in 1970 to more than 260 billion shillings last year while imports during the same period increased from 92 billion shillings to 340 billion shillings last year.

Transportation equipment comprises about 30 percent of all Austrian exports while industrial goods comprise about 36 percent.

Tools and equipment comprise 27 percent of all imports, raw materials 8 percent and industrial goods 18 percent.

West Germany is considered to be Austria's largest trade partner, followed by Italy, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, the United States, and Saudi Arabia.

[Question] When do you expect the world economic recovery?

[Answer] There are some indicators which are pointing toward recovery in 1984.

[Question] In your opinion, what is the future of the oil market?

[Answer] The decrease in world demand for oil is a result of economic recession in the industrial countries basically. When the anticipated economic recovery occurs, world demand for oil will increase gradually.

[Question] Western countries have begun to change from OPEC oil suppliers to other oil exporting countries which are not members of OPEC such as Mexico. What do you think of this?

[Answer] I doubt whether Western countries will be able to do without OPEC oil, and I believe that OPEC nations will remain the principal source of energy for the world.

[Question] Some European countries are suffering from the presence of large numbers of foreign workers and that has gone hand in hand with an increase in the levels of unemployment in those countries. To what extent has Austria suffered from the problem?

[Answer] We have not suffered from this type of problem, and we have not taken any actions against "guest workers" in our country. They have the same rights as Austrian workers, except we have taken sufficient measures to limit increased immigration of foreign workers to the country.

[Question] What are the areas of investment in Austria, and what facilitations do you offer to foreign investors?

[Answer] There are many opportunities for investment in Austria, and they include investments in industry and services such as tourism. The investment environment in Austria is encouraging and the returns are high, especially in relation to investments in the tourist sector.

12390

CSO: 4404/240

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS--Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin Muhammad al-Qasimi, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, praised the unionist course of the United Arab Emirates and also the accomplishments which were achieved during the past years of the union. On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the union he said in a speech that the establishment of the United Emirates is considered to be one of the most important Arab events to have been realized during the past decade as an outstanding experiment upon which the people of the Emirates have been intent under the leadership of His Highness Zayid Bin Sultan al Nuhayyan and his brothers, the emirate rulers, members of the Supreme Council. He indicated that the unionist course had realized significant accomplishments, representing great efforts which were expended to complete the basic facilities in the state such that it has become favorably comparable with what exists in advanced countries. He said that these accomplishments had a positive role and in the area of industrial installations has reached more than 675 working in various fields. Its role in the service of the national economy lead to participating in realizing a policy of self-sufficiency. In regard to the commercial sector, he said that the issuance of statutes and laws had been completed which legislate and organize some areas of economic activity in consideration of the fact that the economic field is a basic pillar of the union. [Text] [Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 3 Dec 83 p 6] 12390

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY--The municipality of Dubayy has issued a monthly report about work accomplishments in the commercial registry section during the period from 1 November 1983 through 30 November 1983. Seventy-nine transactions were recorded in the register for new businessmen and companies, of which there were 49 new businessmen and 30 new companies registered while 487 transactions were certified. Also 408 businessmen and companies whose commercial licenses had expired were renewed. Forty fines were paid by those without renewing and registering their commercial registers. The fines ranged between 500 and 1,000 dirhams. Seven transactions were recorded in the accountant register and 50 addition and change transactions were recorded in the commerical register for some businessmen. [Text] [Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 11 Dec 83 p 6] 12390

EGYPTIAN TRADE STATISTICS--Mustafa Hamdi, commercial counselor of the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and head of the Egyptian commercial delegation which is presently visiting the country, said that the Emirates import about 65 percent

of total Egyptian food exports and 25 percent of total industrial exports. During a meeting held between the board of directors of the Dubayy Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Egyptian commercial delegation yesterday, attended by a number of businessmen in Dubayy, Hamdi pointed out the development of the scope of commercial exchange between the Emirates and Egypt. Mr Ju'mah al-Nabudah, president of the Dubayy Chamber of Commerce and Industry indicated that Dubayy imports from Egypt had increased from 8 million dirhams in 1979 to about 13 million dirhams in 1983. He expressed his hope that Egyptian imports will increase, indicating that expositions and delegation visits are a direct method for getting to know production and to develop marketing. He revealed the willingness of the Dubayy Chamber of Commerce to welcome the brotherly delegations and to help them set up marketing expositions. Al-Nabudah mentioned that Dubayy is considered a regional export-import center in the Arab Gulf since it imports about 60 percent of the nation's total imports and it also re-exports 70 percent of what it has imported to other parts of the region. He said that the value of imports into Dubayy during last year reached about 20 billion dirhams. Also this role in regional commerce is expected to develop further as a result of the establishment of the Arab Gulf States Cooperation Council. It has been decided that the Egyptian commercial delegation will visit several factories in Dubayy today, as well as the Dubayy dry dock and the port of Rashid. [Text] [Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 3 Jan 84 p 6] 12390

CENTRAL BANK BUDGET--The Central Bank budget as of the end of September was 11.875 billion dirhams, according to a statistical bulletin issued yearly by the Central Bank about monetary and banking indicators for the third quarter of this year. Bank assets were divided into foreign assets in the amount of 9.6 billion dirhams and deposits and current accounts in the amount of 1.7 billion dirhams, 1.6 billion of which was in deposits, 92 million in current accounts and 487 million in other assets for the same period. Debts and liabilities were divided into issued currency in the amount of 2.9 billion dirhams, demand [current] deposits in the amount of 715 million dirhams, and time deposits in the amount of 3 billion dirhams. Foreign currency liabilities were about 1.4 billion dirhams; capital reserves were 2.9 billion dirhams; and other assets, 902 million dirhams for the same period. [Text] [Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Dec 83 p 6] 12502

CSO: 4404/241

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET OFFICIALS REPORTED UNDER MUJAHIDIN ATTACK

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27 (Dispatches)--Muslim Afghan Mujahideen have intensified their attacks against Russian officials.

Reports received here quoting western diplomats in India said that a week ago Muslim Mujahideen in a surprise attack killed a military attache of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

They also killed 140 Russian-Afghan troops and destroyed 14 tanks, military vehicles during recent encounters in Herat and Kandahar Provinces, it was reported on Friday.

It is to be noted that in the course of the attacks, 50 Afghan government troops joined the Mujahideen.

Reports from London said Mujahideen in Afghanistan captured a new type of Russian submachine gun from Russian soldier-prisoner, Jane's Defense weekly reported.

The weapon, not seen in the west before, apparently is a shortened version of the AK74 assault rifle, the magazine's weapon specialist, Ian Hogg, said.

It was seized by Mujahideen or an organization known as the Islamic Unity for Afghanistan in recent battle near Gorgad north of Kabul, Jane's reported.

Hogg said the gas-operated gun has a reinforced plastic magazine, a bell-shaped hood to mask the muzzle flash.

"The weapon appears...to have been developed for use by vehicle drivers, command post staffs and others in need of a self-defense weapon," Hogg added.

CSO: 4600/343

AFGHAN RESISTANCE REPORTEDLY STRIKES 'UNABATED'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, (UPI)--Afghan Mujahideen killed 20 suspected secret police informers and government sumpathizers, including women and Islamic priests, and abducted 18 Soviet soldiers in separate strikes this month, a Western diplomat said early this week.

The diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said anti-government guerillas also attacked power supply facilities in Kabul causing electrical blackouts in the snowy, mile-high capital.

The separate raids were launched against fuel storage tanks, an electric transmission line, a diesel-fired generator, a power transformer and a petroleum tank, he said.

He said Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, "continues to remain in the hands of the resistance forces, and the regime's administrative infrastructure in the city has collapsed."

The Mujahideen, hoping to create an Islamic nation, have been fighting for four years against the Marxist Afghan government of President Babrak Karmal and some 105,000 Soviet occupation troops sent to bolster his regime.

The diplomat said Mujahideen in early January "killed 20 suspected Khad secret police informants and regime sympathizers including several Islamic priests and women" in the southern outskirts of Kabul.

"On Jan. 7, six Soviets were reportedly abducted near their jeep and their fate remains unknown," he said.

The killings and abductions occurred in the village of Shewaki, home of Karmal's father.

Shewaki is just north of the mount of the Logar Valley. Soviet MiG jet fighters bombed the valley in January apparently to halt guerilla attacks on government convoys in the area, the diplomat said.

The diplomat said 12 Soviet soldiers were seized by guerillas in Mazar-i-Sharif, 200 miles (320 km) northwest of Kabul, and "negotiations for their release are currently taking place."

"The Jan. 5 capture of the Soviets may be linked to the arrest of five resistance leaders several days earlier," he said.

In Kandahar, 300 miles (480 km) southwest of Kabul the Mujahideen controlling the city have set up Islamic courts the diplomat said.

"Islamic judges from each of the six resistance groups in the area" rule the courts, he said.

"The fight of the population from Kandahar reportedly continues" due to fighting in the area, he added.

CSO: 4600/342

MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY KILL 157; REPRISALS FEARED IN AFGHANISTAN

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, India (AP) - Afghanistan's pro-Moscow Marxist regime reported heavy fighting in southern Helmand Basin Sunday and claimed 90 Moslem guerillas were killed and several arms caches seized.

In another development, insurgent groups destroyed seven tanks and two armored personnel carriers, knocked down a helicopter gunship and killed at least 150 Soviet and Afghan government troops in a recent battle in Paghman area, 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Kabul, an Afghan exile leader in New Delhi reported.

Saeed Mohammad Maiwand, also quoted travellers arriving from their homeland as saying that guerillas waylaid the second-ranking Afghan ruling party official Saleh Mohammad Zeary, and killed six of his bodyguards and an army officer in southeastern Kandahar Province.

Zeary, formerly deputy prime minister and president of Afghanistan's National Fatherland Front, patterned on the traditional Loya Jirga or Tribal Council, reportedly escaped unhurt. The attack occurred last week while Zeary was travelling from Kandahar city to Panjwayee, 25 kilometers (15 miles) southwest.

Expecting Soviet reprisal bombings, villagers living on both sides of the Kandahar highway fled their homes, said Maiwand, a former senior Afghan official.

The Afghan government radio reported that 95 guerilla hideouts were destroyed and 10 were arrested in the Helmand region. Among the arms captured were 7,089 mortar shells, 500 anti-personnel mines, 356 anti-tank mines, 177 hand grenades and 58,800 rounds of anti-aircraft ammunition, the broadcast said.

CSO: 4600/341

AFGHANISTAN

MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY KILLED 150 SOVIET-AFGHAN SOLDIERS

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, India, Jan. 23 (Dispatches)--In a recent battle in Paghman area 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Kabul, Mujahideen destroyed seven tanks, one armored personnel carrier, knocked down a helicopter gunship and killed at least 150 Russian-Afghan troops, an Afghan exile leader in New Delhi reported.

Saeed Mohammad Maiwand, also quoted travellers arriving from their homeland as saying that the Mujahideen waylaid the second-ranking Afghan ruling party official, Saleh Mohammad Zeary, and killed six of his body guards and an army officer in southeastern Kandahar Province.

Zeary, formerly deputy prime minister and now president of Afghanistan's National Fatherland Front, patterned on the traditional Loya Jirga or tribal council, reportedly escaped unhurt. The attack occurred last week while Zeary was travelling from Kandahar City to Panjwayee, 25 kilometers (15 miles southwest of Kabul).

Soviets continued to bomb villagers living on both sides of the Kandahar highway who fled their homes, said Maiwand, a former senior Afghan official.

Gov't Rejects ICO Resolution

Meanwhile the Soviet installed Afghan government rejected last week's Islamic Summit resolution on the withdrawal of foreign troops from its territory and condemned Muslim leaders for adopting a "U. S.-sponsored move to readmit Egypt into the Islamic Organization Conference (ICO)," Radio Kabul said.

"ICO decisions are engineered in Washington and London," it said, adding that the "unconditional" restoration of Egypt's membership despite its 1979 peace treaty with Israel reflected the "ultimate U. S. plan to legitimize the Zionist state and compel the other Arab and Islamic countries to shake hands with Israel."

Quoting an official communique, it described the Casablanca Summit's resolution on Afghanistan as "interference" in the country's internal affairs that also violated the U. N. charters.

The solution of the Afghanistan issue could only be found through "direct negotiations" between the concerned parties and not by "repeatedly joining the condemnation chorus" of U. S. tunes, the radio said.

AFGHANISTAN

78 SOVIETS REPORTEDLY KILLED BY GUERRILLAS

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Mashhad, (IRNA)--Afghan Mujahideen in their continuing struggle against the Soviet occupying forces destroyed 6 tanks and killed 78 troops in action which took place in Shindand, in West Afghanistan between January 5 to 20, it was reported on Friday.

The report further said that in retaliatory Soviet bombing of the area, some 36 Moslem Mujahideen and 110 defenceless civilians were martyred and also considerable property damages inflicted.

Meanwhile a recent UPI report said an Afghan engineer who defected to Pakistan revealed that the Soviet Union has been mining uranium at a restricted site in Afghanistan for export to its own territory.

The Afghan Information and Documentation Service, based in the border city of Peshawar, said the uranium deposits have been discovered near the Kabul International Airport in the Khwaja Rawah Mountains.

It quoted a former chief engineer of the Geological Survey Department of the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries identified as Mir Saman Mohamand, who defected to Pakistan with his family a week ago.

He said uranium supplies from the site have been exported to the Soviet Union for the past six weeks.

"I myself was working with the Russian geologists in Khawaja Rawash Mountains in the exploration process, and I am a witness to the exploitation of uranium there," the documentation service quoted him as saying.

Mohamand also revealed that the Russians had removed all Afghans from the project to maintain secrecy about the uranium exploitation.

An Afghan source in Islamabad expressed surprise at the export of uranium deposits in the Khwaja Rawash Mountains. He said the only two places known for deposits of this mineral in Afghanistan were Logar and Helmand.

CSO: 4600/345

KABUL ADMITS FIGHT ON IN BORDER AREA

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The leftist regime in Afghanistan said Monday fighting was continuing in Urugun, a strategic border district which it earlier claimed had been recaptured and resistance forces wiped out by government troops.

The official Afghan Radio reported two battles Monday in the area bordering Pakistan, 180 kilometers (112 miles) south of Kabul, the capital. Ten anti-Marxist guerillas battling the Soviet-installed Babrak Karmal regime were reported killed, four anti-aircraft guns destroyed and 14 anti-tank mines seized.

In another encounter armed forces captured a guerilla food depot and destroyed two mortars, two anti-aircraft guns and 10 hideouts, said the Pushtu-language newscast monitored here.

According to Western diplomatic reports, Urugun was seized late last year by the guerillas. The capture cut off government supplies by road to

army units in Paktya and Paktika Provinces.

As many as 100 villagers were slain Jan. 2-5 in Soviet air and ground reprisal attacks on Urugun, which controls several important guerilla supply routes from Pakistan, a Western diplomat reported.

"Servants of America were wiped out from Urugun district in spite of the loud propaganda about their invincibility" Afghan minister for tribes and nationalities Sulaiman Layeq was quoted by Kabul Radio as saying last weekend. "Enemy casualties were so heavy that I could not first believe them myself," he said.

Kabul had reported 119 guerilla fatalities in last week's fighting. It also said a massive quantity of arms and ammunition was seized.

Meanwhile IRNA reports said the Afghan Moslem Mujahideen killed some 150 troops from the joint Soviet-Afghan forces in a recent battle that took place in North-Western

Kabul.

According to reports reaching here the Mujahideen also managed to destroy seven tanks, two military trucks carrying troops and a helicopter.

Meanwhile the Babrak Karmal regime admitted that heavy conflicts had occurred in southern parts of the country.

And an earlier report from Zahedan reported that in an offensive launched by the Afghan Mujahideen the Tur Gandi customs office of Afghanistan on the Soviet-Afghan border in Herat Province was seized from the aggressors after years of occupation.

Informed sources were quoted as saying that during the offensive launched by the Afghan Mujahideen, 100 soldiers and 2 officers of the Karmal troops surrendered themselves with their armaments to the Afghan Mujahideen.

The casualties and losses on either side have not been ascertained yet, the sources said.

MUSAVI SAYS 'IRAN NOT AFRAID OF U. S. THREATS IN GULF'

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

RASHT, Jan. 28 (IRNA)

— The U.S., revealing its intention to raise obstacles in the way of the Islamic Revolution, has alleged that the Islamic Republic is at the top of the so-called terrorist movements, Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said Friday, in a gathering of workers and employees of the power station of Shaheed Beheshti of Loshan, near Rasht, in Gilan Province. He added that these allegations were signs of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and its influence throughout the world, particularly on the deprived and oppressed people of Africa, Asia, Lebanon, Persian Gulf.

Commenting on the Islamic movement in the region, Premier Musavi said that after the movement of the Muslim people of Morocco, the government has become so hysterical that it has alleged that the movement has started by instigations from the Islamic Revolution of Iran. This, he said, manifests the grandeur of the Islamic Revolution.

Prime Minister Musavi also said, the Islamic Republic did not fear the threats of U.S. intervention in the Strait of Hormuz, and that it was Iran which would decide the situation in the region and have the last word.

The U.S. and NATO forces, which have announced their presence around the Strait of Hormuz, know very well they cannot withstand the consolidated people of Iran under the able leadership of Imam Khomeini. He said, that if the (U.S. and NATO) intervention forces could have suppressed the Islamic Revolution they would have done so long ago.

The Prime Minister also noted that the U.S. is fully aware that a direct confrontation with Iran would entail a volcanic eruption in the Persian Gulf region which could wipe out the presence of the imperialistic powers.

IRANIAN ENVOY TO VATICAN DENIES U. S. 'ALLEGATIONS'

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Rome, Jan. 28 (IRNA)--Hojjatoleslam Hadi Khosrowshahi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic to the Vatican strongly condemned Friday rumors fabricated by world imperialism and its affiliated news media concerning the support of the Islamic Republic for terrorist acts.

Speaking in a press conference, Hojjatoleslam Khosrowshahi presented documents connecting the local writer of the SUNDAY TIMES newspaper with the CIA and the detested Pahlavi regime. (The SUNDAY TIMES writer had accused Iran of forming terrorists groups in London and Rome.) The ambassador said that these propaganda attacks were launched to damage the esteem of the Islamic Revolution in the eyes of the regional people and aimed at replacing the name of Iraq with that of Iran in the so-called black list of terrorists countries.

He continued that it was the natural right of the people of Lebanon, Palestine and other world oppressed to choose by themselves the appropriate methods for campaigning against oppressors. The people of Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine were not terrorists, he stressed, adding that they wanted to live independently and to be free. The victory of the Islamic Revolution has shown the world's Muslims that they can stand against, fight and overcome imperialism and its lackeys without suffering out of concern for what the enemy called them.

Hojjatoleslam Khosrowshahi then refuted the accusations of U. S. administration that Iran was training terrorists for suicide missions. He said that these allegations being launched out of the White House were mere lies.

CSO: 4600/347

IRNA REPORTS ON 'HARASSMENT OF WASHINGTON MOSLEMS'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] Washington (IRNA)--As wronged Moslems in the Middle East step up their defiance of Washington and its policies in that part of the world and do so in the face of increased insinuation by the international Zionist media in and outside of the United States for stigmatizing Moslems and especially the Iranians and other Moslems ascribing terroristic acts to them. U. S. police and FBI agents continue their harassment of the Iranian students at mosques and other places here.

Last week the English weekly NEWSWEEK said quoting French officials in Lebanon that two terrorist groups from Ba'albek of Lebanon were about to set foot in the United States. They claimed that supported by Iran the group intended to drive a truck-load of explosives into the White House and explode it right there.

Apparently in an attempt to conduct investigations, a group of U. S. security officials laid siege to a house wherein mass prayers and Thursday-night Komeil prayers were supposed to be held. They then entered the house without any warrant for entry and interrogated the people in the house. They said during the interrogation that they had heard about imminent terroristic operations by pro-Iran groups in the United States and that they were worried about the safety of the U. S. president.

Asked about the purpose of their inquisition, the U. S. security officials said that they had done so in order to make suspects aware that the U. S. police already knows everything and that everything is under control.

U. S. security forces also raided the Islamic Studies Centre in the suburb of Washington. In the daytime, the centre is used as an Islamic school. It is also a place wherein religious ceremonies are held.

The place is frequented by advocates of the Islamic Revolution. U. S. security officials said and also that they were looking for a certain suspect. They asked the people in the centre about the whereabouts of the suspected person. They also lingered in the place until midnight awaiting his return to the centre.

This was not the first instance of harassment of Moslems and especially of Iranians by police and security forces in the United States.

For some months past a group of 43-plus Iranian youths have been put to trial on vague charges of attempting to enter a Moslem mosque in the city. The group intended to enter the mosque for participating in a mass prayers on the Moslem feat of Bidul-Fitr.

Their trial is being needlessly but intentionally procrastinated by the U. S. court officials here, as a means for frustrating them and shattering their determination for letting their protest reach a wider world audience. Despite that the members of the group have regularly participated in Friday mass prayers here in order to make their call of protest reach a larger people.

The archfiends and the U. S. Administration, however, would be wiser to realize that no obstacle whatever will be capable of preventing Moslems in their determination for propagating Islam and the Islamic Revolution and for struggling against irreligion and tyranny.

CSO: 4600/349

INFIGHTING AMONG RULING CLERGY REPORTED

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 18 Jan 84 p 18

[Article by Ralph Joseph]

[Text] Infighting has gradually intensified among Iran's fundamentalists during the last few months, and is expected to peak during the campaigning for parliamentary elections in the next few weeks. Analysts say that the fundamentalists began to turn on each other shortly after the crackdown on the Tudeh (Communist) Party was completed in April. The Communists were the last of the ideological enemies to be crushed, leaving no real opposition to them operating legally inside the country.

The fundamentalists comprise several groups competing for power. They include the hard-core Islamic Republican Party, the Hojjatieh Society, the Mujahideen of the Islamic Revolution and the Militant Clergymen's Association. Each group has been carving out its own niche in the overall structure of the Islamic Republic built up by Ayatollah Khomeiny since 1979.

For want of better terms, they are divided by analysts into the "Islamic Left" and the "Islamic Right." Such hard-core I.R.P. members as Hojjatolislam Ali Khamenei, the president of the republic, and Hojjatolislam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, classified as Leftists. The measures they espouse included land reform and the

nationalisation of foreign trade.

The I.R.P. gained control of the government after the ouster of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in 1981. With Khamenei as president and Mir Hossein Musavi as Prime Minister, they captured the executive machinery, though making

concessions to other groups working with them. Thus the Mujahideen of the Islamic Revolution (not to be confused with the Mujahideen Khalq guerrilla organisation), came under the I.R.P. umbrella when Beheshti was alive. Also seen to be on the Left end of the spectrum, they agreed to stay in the party only if they received control of the important economic portfolios in the cabinet. They did.

The Hojjatiehs were considered to be far to the Right. They captured a considerable bloc of seats in the Majlis during the 1980 elections, and made their presence felt. They tended to vote with the I.R.P. on issues that were generally considered to be of national importance, such as legislation to free the American hostages in early 1981. But they opposed such measures as the nationalisation of trade and land reform, arguing that these were contrary to Islam, which respects private property.

After the Tudeh Party was crushed, leaving no "common enemies" for the fundamentalists to turn on, their attacks on one another became more open and acrimonious. The Hojjatiehs accused the I.R.P. of violating the tenets of Islam and described some of their top leaders, such as President Khamenei, as Marxists.

With the Majlis elections due some time in March, they began to pressure the Government to replace Interior Minister Ali Akbar Natek-Noori with a man who did not belong to the I.R.P. The Hojjatiehs felt Natek-Noori would rig the elections in favour of his own party.

In retaliation, the Government accused the Hojjatiehs of rejecting

Khomeini's doctrine of "Valayat Faqih" (rule of the clergy). This they could not deny. The Hojjatieh spiritual leader, Sheikh Mahmud Halaby, has never accepted the doctrine, based on the belief that the "Faqih" is the deputy on earth of the Mehdi (the "Invisible Imam.")

The doctrine is dear to Khomeiny, who sees himself as the "Faqih." The attack on every non-fundamentalist opposition group in Iran included the charge that they had rejected the principle of "Valayat Faqih" in the constitution.

The tactic has worked to some extent in the case of the Hojjatiehs also, and Khomeiny has come out on the side of the I.R.P. He made a speech accusing the Hojjatiehs, in his usual harsh language, of weakening and disrupting the Government by their criticism.

The Hojjatieh Society responded by announcing in August that it was formally dissolving itself, and closing its offices throughout the country. Analysts see this "withdrawal from the political scene" as only a tactical retreat, and believe that the Hojjatieh presence in the forthcoming elections will be too strong to be ignored. They still hold their seats in the parliament.

What makes the infighting dangerous for the regime is that each fundamentalist group has its own band of armed supporters among the revolutionary guards. If differences become particularly strong, they could deteriorate into armed clashes within the Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Komitehs (local security centres).

The clashes would, at any rate, be inevitable after Khomeiny's death—and he is a very sick man.

Meanwhile, the Government in Teheran has been coming under attack in a more subtle manner, and from another direction. The merchants in the bazaar, who joined forces with the Mullahs in 1978 to bring down the Shah, are now reported to be opposing the I.R.P. Government because of heavy losses they have suffered through its policies. They have begun moves to withhold taxes from the Government—on religious grounds.

The merchants, well-versed in the Koran, have pointed out that under Islamic law they are not required to pay taxes to the Government if they pay a religious tax (called zakat) to the clergy. The strength and independence of the Shi'ite clergy in Iran, in fact, is based on the wealth they have acquired by receiving the "zakat" directly from the faithful, instead of through Government-controlled agencies as in other (Sunni) Muslim countries.

Now, with the Government already in financial straits because of the Gulf war, the merchants have posed a dilemma. Leading clergymen cannot ask them to pay Government taxes as well as zakat, since this would fly in the face of Islam. Nor can they ask them to pay zakat only (as the Government

would be weakened), or secular taxes only (as the clergy would be weakened).

Divisions on this subject have become so strong that it led to a thinly-disguised public controversy between Khomeiny and his heir-apparent, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, in December. Khomeiny has attempted to end the controversy by attributing public debate on it to "foreign plots." The analysts say that the rot appears to have begun: the inward collapse of the regime may not be far away.

CSO: 4600/348

VERDICTS ISSUED ON 'SOVIET SPY TRIAL'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] TEHRAN— The Military Tribunal of the Islamic Revolution sentenced 87 military members of the defunct Tudeh Party to imprisonment, ranging from life to less than a year.

Hojjatolislam Mohammadi Reyshahri, the Islamic judge of the military, said the verdicts concerning 13 of them had not yet been decided. He did not give any names.

He said the charges against them were in four categories, attempts to overthrow the Islamic Republic, espionage, gathering and hiding weapons and violating the decree against the membership of militarymen in political parties.

Reyshahri said four had been freed from committing minor offenses and repenting to the tribunal. Six were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The trials began last December six, and those tried included former Navy Commander Bahram Afzali, and several colonels.

The secretary general of the party, Nuraddin Kianuri appeared as witness in a number of the trials.

Hojjatolislam Reyshahri also said some 30 members of the "majority faction" of the Fedayean Khalq Organization who had been members of the secret military wing of the Tudeh Party would also be put to trial after the completion of their case.

He said most leaders of this faction had fled abroad and its collaboration with the Tudeh Party was enough evidence to ban the organization.

He did not say when the banning of the organization would be announced but said its members should report to certain offices when the announcement was made.

The Fedayean "majority faction" is a splinter group of the Fedayean Khalq Organization, which after the Islamic Revolution was split into several groups. Nearly all its factions launched a terrorist campaign against the Islamic Republic.

The Islamic judge added that the number of non-military members of the Tudeh were more than 200 and the head of the military wing of the party, Madhi Partovi, would be tried with this group.

He said 80 percent of the Tudeh's members had been arrested in two phases.

Meanwhile, responding to questions of the TEHRAN TIMES at press conference, Hojjatolislam Reyshahri said that pardon of accused individuals involve certain constitutional procedures.

In an earlier part of his press briefing, the prosecutor had said that genuine repentance and pledges for not returning to their former

actions could be a factor leading to a possibility of freedom of convicts.

Responding to a question by the TEHRAN TIMES, the Hojjatolislam later said that it was a miracle of the Islamic Republic that following thorough investigations and humane approach, the government succeeded in seeing open confessions and frank admissions of crimes by the Tudeh Party members put on trial.

It was unprecedented in the world that the accused speak out their thoughts with total freedom in a prosecution, disclose realities that serve against themselves, admit their guilt and even demand maximum punishment against their crimes.

Hojjatolislam Reyshahri said a major breakthrough during detention process and conduct of trials had been gradual awakening and realization of the accused persons to the fact that their stand was a blind one of imagined ideas and baseless propaganda that had distorted the thinking of the accused and the facts about the state administration.

After their capture and interrogation of the accused individuals, the state proceedings on the cases and sympathetic behavior in the prisons led to crumbling of all obstinacy and groundless bias formerly entertained by their raw

and fertile imagination, the prosecutor said.

Continued Reyshahri: When the (accused) encounters reality, he asks himself: "Why did I want to commit a treason against my nation? Why was I led to this path?" He analyzes and admits his guilt. Even many of these individuals declared that they want to confess in order to lighten the burden of their wrongdoings that weighed heavily on their consciences.

"This is the miracle of this revolution which assists a criminal to make him return to his original self and shed all baseless fears and inhibitions.

Another factor for frank admissions of guilt and confessions of the crimes was a thorough investigation, surveillance and control of the Islamic Republic forces covering the full range of Tudeh members' activities before they were finally arrested.

The previous data gathered by competent authorities that had already disclosed the clandestine nature and espionage of the Tudeh Party had left the accused no alternative but to admit the truth.

The following are names and sentences of 87 members of the defunct Tudeh Party.

Life Sentence: Abulqassem Afraie, Rahim Shamssi, Saber Zafar Haidari, Saifullah Ghayassvand, Taimour Ravandi Hedayatullah Zombdehsaraie.

30 YEARS: Ja'far Bahrami-Nejad 20 YEARS: Rahim Sadeq-Zadeh, Najmullah Mehrpour, Mohammad Hassan Javadi, Meghdad Dehqani, Bahman Qanbari. 15 YEARS: Mohssen Bigdeli, Ali Akbar Mirzaie, Abulfazl Mahdaavi, Bijan Haidarian, Bahman Nezami, Mohammad Hashem Sa'adatmandi.

14 YEARS: Tufan Rabiee.

12 YEARS: Qodrat Moghimi,

Khalil Abarqouie, Mohammad Reza Sa'adatmandi.

10 YEARS: Mohammad Mofidi, Mohammad Amin Moqadassi, Khairullah Iran-Nejad, Khalil Qannadi-Azar, Qolamali Vahed, Abolqassem Azimi, Mohammad Cheraghi, Hadi Hussein-Zadeh, Fereidun Moradi, Ali Kazemi, Nasser Shahsavand, Mohammad Isma'il Mirzaie, Siroos Hakimi, Mohssen Hussein-Nejad, Davoud Ghoraiishi.

8 YEARS: Nabiullah Zadeh-Nur, Jamshid Bazraie, Mohammad Rahimi, Gholamreza Paymandust, Safarali Movahedi, Hassan Sarrafpour.

7 YEARS: Firouz Shahsavarian. 6 YEARS: Hojjatullah Hamidi.

5 YEARS: Bahman Hafez-nia, Abbas Hashi-Nejad, Assadullah Darikvandi, Mahdi Mustafavi, Abazar Gholami, Khalil Minaie, Nasser Behjati, Mohammad Reza Giyahchi, Shafi' Hussein-Pour, Nasser Ilkhani, Ibrahim Lotfi, Ali Khosravanfar, Aghaverdi

Ahmadi, Manoochehr Zulfaghari, Sulaiman Hussein-Zadeh Nowdehi, Jamal Mousavi, Mohammad Anssari, Ne'matullah Alikhani, Qassem Bakhshi-Zadeh, Mahvutudi, Mohammad Reza Yazdan-Dust, Isa Haqshenass Haqiqi, Reza Barati, Gholamali Davari, Hadi Hassrati, Reza Pakdel, Mahmud Delavar, Hassan Ma'ghul, Hamid Afshar, Nasser Gorji, Majid Sorkhkuh Azari.

4 YEARS: Hussein Khaza'eli, Ali Ne'mati, Hafez Qassedi Kondbin. 3 YEARS: Ali Akbar Ramazani. 2 YEARS: Baqer Samir, Saber Panahandeh Nikcheh, Mohammad Reza Behdad. 1 YEAR: Hussein Ramazani. 8 MONTHS: Faleh Fazeli, Mohammad Bahrarni-Rad, Davoud Khakhali.

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT POWER GENERATION EFFORTS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] KARACHI, Jan. 18: The Federal Minister for Water and Power, Raja Sikandar Zaman, said here today that the government was keen to increase the power generation in the country and had embarked upon an ambitious programme in this regard.

Inaugurating a multi-topic international symposium organised by the Institution of electrical engineers, Pakistan (Karachi Centre), the Minister pointed out that a large proportion of the national budget had been earmarked for this purpose.

The next five years will see the country taking long strides in power generation and its distribution to far flung areas of Pakistan, he added.

Raja Sikandar Zaman said that for the last few years shortage of electricity was being experienced in the country including Karachi and a resort had to be made to load management. However, he said, this was being done in a manner which has affected our industrial output and agriculture produce the least.

Raja Sikandar Zaman noted that Karachi had been through a miserable period last summer when the consumers had to suffer power breakdowns and load management due to power generation shortages. "But thank God it is over now", he added.

He said that KESV had succeeded in commissioning the first unit of its biggest power station at Bin Qasim. This year the second unit will also be commissioned thus increasing the generation capacity by another 210 MW. Three more units were planned to be installed at Bin Qasim and these together

with some more smaller units would increase the generation capacity to match the increasing demand of this city.

The Minister thanked the power of this "Great city" for their patient co-operation and for bearing the hardship.

He noted that our engineers had been keeping pace with the developments in the country and were doing their bit in keeping themselves abreast of developments taking place around the world.

Raja Sikandar Zaman, said here today that on the initiative of President General Mohammed Ziaul Haq favourable concessions had been

provided to engineers, scientists and other experts of Pakistan origin who may opt to come to Pakistan and assist in the implementation of development projects relevant to their expertise.

He was inaugurating a multi-topic international symposium, organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers Pakistan (Karachi Centre) at a local hotel here today.

Highlighting the problem of brain-drain of engineers and highly educated and skilled personnel from the country, the Minister said that by taking appropriate steps and providing better sustenance to them within the country and also offering better opportunities to those returning home can to a great extent, help arrest the trend.

"We will continue to receive such engineers and experts with open arms as they are our prized possessions", he remarked.

Raja Sikandar Zaman pointed out that the age of computer has made the engineers and technocrats job more sophisticated and has also changed the trends. This requires

indepth thinking and acquisition of knowledge with devotion continued vigour and individual attention.

He was confident that our engineers and scientists would take up the challenge and find ways and means to put their experience and know-how into practice using the computers in various fields.

The Minister said that the presence of foreign delegates and local engineers in good number augurs well for the future and was indicative of the keen interest in sharing their knowledge and experience.

He said the government will always be willing to extend its whole-hearted support to all efforts aimed at improving the standard and quality of work of the engineers which, in turn will contribute to prosperity and development in Pakistan.—APP

MINISTER SPEAKS ON LITERACY PLANS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan. 19: Dr. Mohammed Afzal, Federal Minister for Education said here today that government plans to setup 7,000 Literacy Centres for spreading literacy in the country during the Sixth Plan period.

The Minister said that the government has recognised the importance of adult education and will provide an amount of Rs. 750 million for this purpose. He said that the functional literacy and occupational education especially for rural and agricultural sectors have been defined as the priority areas.

Dr. Afzal said that the Literacy and Mass Education Commission (LAMEC) has drawn up plans to make 10.8 million adults literate by 1988. The target group identified for imparting literacy by 1988 included: 4.8 million males and 6.0 million females.

Continuing, Dr. Afzal said that in the literacy centres which will be established and managed by the provincial governments, 8.0 million illiterates will be imparted face to face teachings. A major effort will also be mounted to make literate at least 1.75 million adults through radio and TV programmes, he added.

He said that the local councils will be closely involved and mass media also used for motivation. He said literacy programmes through non governmental organisations and non conventional approaches will be launched for achieving these objectives. He said that emphasis will be laid on research and training of literacy programme personnel.—APP

CSO: 4600/329

BRITISH TRADE TEAM TALKS OF JOINT VENTURES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] LAHORE, Jan. 20: The members of the visiting BASATA Trade Mission to Pakistan are prepared to consider the transfer of technology through technical collaboration agreements; some are prepared to look at investment and joint ventures, and some are seeking to appoint suitably qualified agents and of course, it is always open to local businessmen to try to persuade companies on the mission to source industrial supplies and inputs from Pakistan.

This was stated by Mr. J. S. Hewitt, leader of the mission while addressing a press conference here today.

Replying to a question the leader of the mission said that Pakistan needed to expand its engineering base for which it required technology which,

he said, could be provided by Britain. He said that Britain was also studying the possibilities of working on WAPDA's coal mining project. He said electricity generation could be a problem for Pakistan in the next two years and would cause other problems. To overcome these problems, Britain could assist Pakistan in the generation field also.

To another question Mr. Hewitt said it was entirely upto Pakistan to identify areas in which joint ventures could be initiated by both the countries. He said during the mission's visit to Islamabad they would have detailed discussion with Pakistani officials and apprise them of areas where joint ventures could be under-

taken, regarding triangular joint ventures. He said Pakistan contracting companies with the collaboration of British Companies could get contracts in the Third World countries. He said the goods manufactured in Pakistan were very good but what was needed was to make the products internationally acceptable.

Mr. Hewitt said that a conference would be held in Britain on May 6 which would provide an opportunity to make further exchange of views on matters of mutual interest.

To yet another question Mr. Hewitt said that U.K. carried out some oil drilling work in Pakistan and certainly Britain was interested in the exploration of gas and oil in Pakistan and added that so far there was no significant achievement.

PAKISTAN

BENAZIR'S EXIT SEEN AS FACILITATING ELECTIONS

Karachi JANG in Urdu 14 Jan 84 p 5

[Article by Mukhtar 'Aqil: "The Departure of Miss Benazir Bhutto"]

[Excerpts] On the night of 10 January, the 28-year-old daughter of Mr Bhutto, the founder of the defunct People's Party [PPP] and once the prime minister of our country, left the country, following in her mother, Nasrit Bhutto's, footsteps. Benazir has been under house arrest since 7 March 1981. She was transferred to her home on 70 Clifton Road, Karachi, in November 1982 from "Amartaza," her residence in her native village. Armed guards were posted outside her Karachi "subjail." Recently, there was some relaxation in the restrictions imposed on her. Her younger sister, Sanam Nasir, was allowed to visit her five times a week and on 5 January she celebrated her father's 57th birthday at 70 Clifton Road. On this occasion, her cousin, Begum Funery Gulzar, was given special permission to participate in that ceremony.

The general assumption on her going abroad is that Benazir had applied on grounds of health last month. She had written that she was suffering from a hearing impairment since 1978 and had lost hearing in her left ear due to lack of proper treatment. She was worried that half her face would be paralyzed. The government gave her permission to leave the country on this basis.

Some politicians, however, view this departure from another angle. They report that Khan Bahadur Habib Allah, former Muslim League leader, visited Benazir at 70 Clifton Road for 3 hours and advised her to go abroad. The government and close friends and relatives of Benazir, however, kept this all a secret. According to these same sources, Khan Bahadur Habib Allah had visited Begum Nasrat Bhutto before she decided to leave the country. Now, except for his first wife, Amir Begum, no member of the Bhutto family remains in Pakistan. Begum Nasrat Bhutto has left the country with her two sons and two daughters. According to some political circles, such a development is very important for popular elections. The fears that our government had are now removed. It is also assumed that leaders of the defunct PPP were instrumental in the emigration of the Bhutto family. This leadership desires elections at any cost. Mohammed Hanif Rai, chief minister of Punjab during the rule of this party, recently said that Benazir should leave the country if

it helps bring about elections in Pakistan. It is possible that Miss Benazir decided to leave the country as a result of hints from her late father's friends. In her farewell message to her countrymen, she hoped for demonstrations in fields, gardens, lanes, markets, colleges and court-houses for the establishment of a constitution, democratic government and economic equality.

Her message was made public right after she moved the offices of the MRD to another country. The ball is now in the court of President Zia. He has made it clear that he wants popular elections on his own terms. It is up to the MRD now whether it stays with idle talk or takes part in elections to save its sinking ship.

7997

CSO: 4656/74

PAKISTAN

BENAZIR'S DEPARTURE VIEWED AS DISAPPOINTMENT FOR SUPPORTERS

Karachi JANG in Urdu 14 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Abdul Qadir Hasan: "And Now Benazir"]

[Text] It is 3:30 am on Tuesday and I am still awake. I had been reading until 1:30 and was having trouble getting to sleep when the phone rang. My source from Karachi airport told me that Benazir was seen boarding a Swissair plane. I was expecting this news and had asked a friend to check on it. I received this news when newspapers were already on the street, but I had already informed my readers that as a result of talks between our government and the defunct People's Party [PPP], it would not be surprising if Benazir left the country. Now, after Benazir has gone, no member of the late Bhutto's family remains in our country.

Benazir was not only Bhutto's daughter, she was also considered his successor. Mr Bhutto himself had great political hopes for her. Today, not even one member of that family, which was so active in this subcontinent, is in this country. This family is scattered and in despair. As a poet said, "The sunshine left with the sun."

Miss Benazir has left for Zurich enroute to wherever she would like to go. She had asked the authorities at the time of her departure to let her go in peace and not to disclose her whereabouts. Obviously she did not want member of her party to stage a demonstration on her departure and shed crocodile tears. Actually, these followers were the cause of her family's downfall. Now that this political dynasty has left Pakistan and washed its hands of Pakistan's politics, we remember the commotion this family caused in Pakistan during its heyday. When Bhutto was in jail and his life was at stake, the members of his party were either silent or had gone underground. Leaders from Punjab were hiding in Sind and Sarhad and those from Sind were hiding in Punjab. In those days, Bhutto had sent a message to Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan saying that only a popular movement could save him. But this "street power" of which Bhutto was so proud never emerged. His impotent party members proved to be very selfish.

Miss Benazir tried hard to revive her father's political legacy and get those wayward followers under one flag. She was unsuccessful in this effort.

Bhutto's adopted sons and heirs left the country by spurious means. His real sons emigrated to enemy countries where their stupid activities brought the party a loss of status. The MRD's attempt to hijack a PIA plane caused its downfall. Within Pakistan, first Mrs Bhutto and later Miss Benazir tried to establish a strong opposition, but they failed. When the MRD began its campaign, it was led by elements that Miss Benazir disliked, and it was decided to end this campaign. After this, Miss Benazir had no alternative but to join her mother; so she negotiated with the government to leave the country. What else did the government want? We are not aware of the details of this deal but know that Miss Benazir left the country with the cooperation of our government, and her departure was kept a total secret. We can assume that there must have been some negotiations and understandings between the government and its strongest opponent. Nevertheless, it is depressing to note that every member of the most important family of our country has emigrated voluntarily. Two sons of this family cannot enter several countries because they are labeled as air pirates. The mother is sick and the eldest daughter, who is more important than the sons, has left her country, her home and her vast wealth. May God take pity on us!

7997

CSO: 4656/74

COMMENTARY EXAMINES IMPACT OF BENAZIR'S EXIT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Much of the speculation emanating from Miss Benazir's exit have now subsided. Addressing a Press conference at Heathrow Airport, Miss Benazir made two things clear—that there were no deals, secret or otherwise, with the Government and that the PPP would continue its struggle and maintain its confrontation posture towards the present regime in Pakistan.

Miss Benazir has been acclaimed by the British media as a leading political figure in Pakistan. Some have described her as wiser than her age and still more have found her political sagacity surpassing that of her mother, Nusrat Bhutto. All in all she has been well received in Britain.

Miss Benazir is likely to stay in Britain for quite some time. How she organises opposition there remains to be seen. But she has herself said that free as she is now she will be in a much better position to chalk out her future strategy. In the first place her presence there will make the overseas PPP faction more effective. Hitherto mutual bickering had rendered it incapable of playing its due role. It is not yet clear whether winning

over certain British M.P.s to her side will be on her plank in her struggle against Gen. Zia's regime. There was a move to invite Nusrat Bhutto to address the House of Commons when she proceeded abroad for treatment. A similar offer to Miss Benazir could cause embarrassment to the Government here.

But of far more significance for national politics would be her meeting with Ataulah Mengal, if there is one, and its outcome. Her support for autonomy contained in

the statement which she issued on her departure from Pakistan has prepared the ground for such a meeting with the Baluch leader. It would not be going too far to expect a joint declaration by the two on the autonomy issue.

At home there are no signs of the MRD breaking up as it was feared by some. With no major initiative expected from the Government to capitalise on Miss Benazir's exit, the opposition is likely to survive the shock of PPP acting chairman's sudden departure from Pakistan. And this also explains Miss Benazir's optimism that none of her party colleagues would desert the 'House of Bhutto'. Loyalty like any other thing has its price and at the moment the regime is least prepared to pay that price.

With no thaw in sight we find the crisis simmering amidst us. If it is a matter of scoring a point the government has certainly done so by overcoming the fury of the MRD protest. But the MRD in its chagrin could take consolation in keeping its protest alive, even if it is in a very low key. This kind of limited show-down may not pose a direct threat to the Government but it is doubtful if any government can flourish in a situation ridden with tension.

What perhaps the government does not envisage at the time is that economic difficulties could provide the take-off thrust to the MRD protest campaign in its second phase of struggle. Already it has started highlighting the mounting economic miseries of the common man. This is an issue which none, no matter where his or her political affiliation may lie, can remain indifferent to. And the fact that the Government has no immediate solution to the problems means that the worst is yet to come. The cotton crop has already been greatly damaged. With no sign of rains, it is now the wheat

crop that seems seriously threatened. The power crisis is further aggravating the situation. Shops and trading centres are being shut down at 5.30 p.m. usually a time for peak business activities. The businessmen and traders, the biggest beneficiaries of government's economic policies have now reason to be annoyed with the authorities. Economic troubles easily lead to flaring of tempers. And as the time passes by we will find the MRD more and more building its protest campaign around the common man's economic plight.

How the price spiral rocked Tunisia we all know. After a week of rioting in which over 200 people were killed Mr. Bourguiba was left with no option but to withdraw the price hike. The storm has now subsided. But it is too easy to say whether all the fire has been extinguished in the woods there.

There has been a school of thought here which sees a way out of our economic difficulties in collaboration with the Soviet Union. Recently, Mubashar Hasan, an ex-Finance Minister, expressed similar sentiments and asked the government to accept the generous Soviet offer of assistance without delay.

But with the Afghan crisis persisting and Pakistan and Soviet Union continuing to differ on the issue there is no likelihood of the two countries entering into any meaningful co-operation. Then the Kremlin does not view favourably our special relationship with the U.S. and efforts to strengthen and enlarge Pak-Soviet ties could proportionately affect our 'special ties' with the U.S. The government's dilemma is indeed great. There have been few countries that have been able to maintain equally good ties with both the Superpowers. Our neighbour India is one of them. This explains why in any dispute with us the diplomatic

initiative has always remained with New Delhi.

Our ties with India have shown even greater anomalies. The two have hoped for good ties without first resolving their differences. And each time differences have proved too strong for all efforts at normalisation. Perhaps it is expecting too much to build an edifice of friendship in the unsettling swirl of unresolved issues.

Since the Sind violence the two countries' relations have taken a downward plunge. They have traded accusations of interfering in each other's internal affairs. There have been reports of troop concentration on the border. The Congress (I) Dr. Farooq tussle in occupied Kashmir is a source of concern to us. It is for the first time that Farooq Abdullah has been accused of helping the pro-Pakistani elements. This terminology has been used for the first time and it could turn out to be very significant. A new colour is being given to the situation there. The fallout of the Kashmir crisis could adversely affect Pak-India ties.

Already there has been trouble on the control line. There have been some serious violations of the ceasefire. Recently, a Pakistani soldier was killed in one of these incidents. Only on last Wednesday the Indian Defence Minister visited the occupied Valley and put the arms forces on alert there against foreign threat. All this indicates that the situation in occupied Kashmir could explode any time.

The happenings among us at one stage greatly helped the regime in keeping the opposing forces at bay at home. But since then the situation has changed. Now the government needs internal strength to deal with the crisis around it. If polls do not ensure transfer of power or if the exercise is intended to ensure the status quo with some minor changes here and there, it could only let loose forces more destructive than we have hitherto witnessed. Time is of vital essence in

the whole scenario." Further deterioration of the situation around us will only block all chances of 'patch-up' at home. And with Andropov in the Kremlin (likely to lose his moderate touch in so far as Afghan issue is concerned), and Indira Gandhi becoming more belligerent in her bid to sway others around her, it may come increasingly difficult to maintain the 'all is well' position on the western and eastern borders. Any such eventuality could mean a nail in any plan for peaceful transfer of power.

BRITISH HAND IN BENAZIR'S RELEASE DENIED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 8

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan. 18: The British Ambassador, Sir G.G. Forster, has categorically denied reports that his government had played any role in the release and departure from Pakistan of the PPP acting Chairman, Miss Benazir Bhutto.

Talking to The Muslim here this afternoon he said the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, had never written any letter to President Zia on this subject because if she had, it would have gone through him, and in case it had been sent through the Pakistani Embassy in London he would have been informed of it.

The British envoy expressed the view that his Government considered such issues as purely internal matters of Pakistan. He said the PPP leader had been granted stay in Britain for three months on medical grounds which could be extended if Miss Benazir Bhutto so desired.

The question of granting political asylum to Miss Benazir did not arise, the Ambassador said, she had herself declared that she would not be asking for political asylum and would return to Pakistan soon.

While noting that political statements by Miss Bhutto have been pouring in from London, the Ambassador remarked, "We cannot stop anybody from issuing statements and unless a person breaks the British law, the government has no power to proceed against him."

The relations between Pakistan and Britain, he said, have all along been excellent and will grow in future as the two countries at

present are busy exploring ways and means to promote close collaboration in the economic field. An embassy spokesman present on the occasion denied reports that Britain's grants to Pakistan during the year 1982-83 have been nil. He said his country had given grants to Pakistan amounting to 20 million pounds during this period.

UN OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT REFUGEE AID PLAN

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] QUETTA, Jan. 17: Mr. Alan Simon Acting Director of United Nations High Commissioner for refugees said here today that the total international aid programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan this year totalled about 68 million dollars. Out of this amount 44 million dollars aid will be administered directly by the Government of Pakistan, he said.

Mr. Simon arrived here this morning on a three-day visit to this area at the head of a three-member high powered delegation now touring Pakistan.

Talking to newsmen at the Quetta airport he told that the delegation had just signed the agreement. Mr. Simon said that the contribution to the programme came from a wide-range of countries which supported our programme. "I could possibly list more, he said adding there were many donors who have supported this programme.

Replying to a question, he said, object of his delegation's current visit to Pakistan was to help assess the requirements for the future years and to work with the government on that assessment and to look into future needs with regard to new arrivals.

When his impressions were invited on the delegations visit to some of the refugees camps in Pakistan, he said, in his opinion the camps were enormous in size.

Tremendous burden is being ably shouldered and the camps are well administered by Pakistan authorities, with whom we have excellent relations and working very closely, he stated.

He told another correspondent that he was "Very satisfied" with the arrangements made and will

submit a report to his headquarters and Government of Pakistan. "I will be having more rounds of discussions with Pakistan officials before I fly back to Geneva", he said.

When his attention was invited to some recent reports about fresh arrivals in Baluchistan of Afghan refugees from Iran, Mr. Simon said he had just heard about this report. "I should look forward to get more information on this situation, he remarked and added" certainly genuine refugees arrive in countries. It is our duty to assist them and we will assist them".

Soon after arrival the delegation called on the Baluchistan Governor Lt. General Rahimuddin Khan. The delegation also met the Provincial Chief Secretary Salim Abbas Jilani and Commissioner Afghan Refugees in Baluchistan Brig. Khadim Hussain.

Tomorrow the members of the delegation will visit the Afghan refugees tentage villages at Surkhab, near Pishin and Muslim Bagh in Zhob district of Baluchistan.

On arrival in Quetta at PIA the UNHCR delegation was received at the airport by the Afghan Refugees Commissioner in Baluchistan, Brigadier Khadim Hussain and other officials.—APP

FOREIGN TRADE WITH IRAN DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Abdul Majid Khan]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has opened an exhibition of her export products at Karachi on the 19th January, 1984. This is a single country exhibition and a commendable step to make the people of Pakistan aware of the exportable surplus of Iran, our

Bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Iran are cordial. Promotion of Islamic values including socio-economic matters is the goal of both Islamic countries. This spirit should bring them together and make them co-operate with each other in trade, finance, insurance and other fields.

IMPORTS

However, in foreign trade one way traffic cannot continue for a long time. During the last nine years, the balance of trade has always been in favour of Pakistan. Imports from Iran have been small and never stable. Only in 1982-83, there was some significant increase. Table 2 shows the balance of trade of Pakistan with Iran from 1974-75 to 1982-83. See Table 2

In 1982-83, the inflow of Iranian crude petroleum started. Before that Pakistan was importing minor items like zera, black, Iranian crockery, some dried fruits, lentils and medicinal herbs. Iranian crude petroleum is being imported under

recent trade agreement concluded between the two Governments. There is scope to increase imports from Iran and to increase the number of import commodities.

Table 1, Iran as customer of Pakistan (Value Rs. 000S)				
Years	Total	To Iran	% share of Iran	Position of Iran among all
1978-79	16,925,015	464,193	2.74	8
1979-80	23,410,124	1,039,086	4.44	8
1980-81	29,279,489	2,294,520	7.84	2
1981-82	26,269,866	823,345	3.13	10
1982-83	34,441,703	4,225,232	12.27	1

immediate neighbour. Pakistan and Iran are members of the Conference of Islamic Countries at Jeddah. They are also two of the three partners of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) Organisation, the third member being Turkey. For the last few years the RCD has not been working actively, but now it has been realised by all the three members that there are great advantages to economic cooperation and the organisation should be reactivated to promote intra-regional trade and other socio-economic fields.

Foreign trade between Pakistan and Iran is expanding fast although there is unlimited scope to increase it further. In 1982-83, Iran was the biggest customer of Pakistan. Her position as customer has been fluctuating between first and eight in the last five years, but on the whole, there is no doubt that she has been one of the most important customers as shown in table 1.

Table 1 is clear indicator of the progress of visible exports to Iran. However, one important point has not been mentioned so far. Exports to Iran during 1982-83 not only placed Iran at the top of our customers in that year but also

made her number 1 customer in the 36 year history of Pakistan. So many exports have never been made to any single country in any one year.

IRANIAN ECONOMIC CHANGES

Since the Iranian political revolution in 1979 there have been significant changes in the agricultural and industrial production of that country. Government policy now aims at self-sufficiency in all economic fields besides clearance of old debts and dependence on others. This sound government policy has helped Iran to recover from shocks received in the past. Foreign exchange reserves increased from \$ 3 billion in September 1981 to \$ 15 billion in November 1982. Oil revenues are now inflowing at the rate of \$ 2 billion a month. Oil output is now about

Table 2, Pakistan - Balance of Trade with Iran

Years	Exports	Imports	(Rs. million) Balance	
1974-75	594	117	(+)	477
1975-76	176	63	(+)	113
1976-77	879	31	(+)	848
1977-78	525	57	(+)	468
1978-79	464	59	(+)	405
1979-80	1309	95	(+)	1214
1980-81	2295	25	(+)	2270
1981-82	823	23	(+)	800
1982-83	4225	1145	(+)	3080

200,000 barrels a day. Foreign debts existing in 1979 at \$ 15 billion have been completely eliminated. Inflation has declined from 30 per cent in 1979 to 16 per cent at present.

Priority is being given to agriculture to reduce food imports. Iran has a total land area of 165 million hectares, half of which is mountains and desert. About 10 million hectares are under crops. Efforts are being made to expand irrigation facilities, provide fertilizer, plant protection activities and small tractors. Major agricultural crops are wheat, rice barley, cotton, sugar beet, fresh and dried fruits, spices and medicinal herbs.

Major manufacturing industries of Iran are carpets and rugs, textiles, sugar, cement, other construction material industries, cotton ginning, vegetable oil production, other food processing, leather tanning, shoe making, metal manufacture, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, fertilizers and plastics. The National Iranian Oil Company

must, hides and skins, mineral ores, wool, gums, caviar, cummin seed and spices.

BILATERAL TRADE

Foreign trade between Pakistan and Iran has entered a new phase. Figures are now available up to August 1983. The balance of trade is still in favour of Pakistan, but the inflow of Iranian goods has accelerated. Trade figures are given in table 2 up to the end of June 1983. According to the Federal Bureau of Statistics, government of Pakistan imports from Iran during the first two months of 1983-84 were Rs. 183.7 million as compared to Rs. 42,000 only during the same period of 1982-83. Exports also increased from Rs. 57 million to Rs. 375.7 million during the same period. Major imports from Iran during 1982-83 and July-August 1983 are given in table 3.

Table 3. Major Imports from Iran (Rs. 000S)

	1982-83	July-August 1983
1. Crude Petroleum	1133802	169262
2. Crude Vegetable material n.e.s.	6168	6138
3. Tea	1623	684
4. Carpets and rugs	784	1155
5. Fabrics of man-made fibres	991	-
6. Spices	393	251
7. Natural gums, resins, balsam and lacs	316	-
8. Miscellaneous manufactured goods	222	-
9. All other items	252	6249
Total	1144551	183739

took over all industrial commercial and financial interests of foreign companies in July, 1979. Major exports are oil, carpets, dried fruits,

Exports to Iran from Pakistan are more diversified and are changing. Now, new items are being traded like wheat, sugar, man-made

fibres and several other items. Details of major items exported to Iran during 1982-83 and during July-August 1983 are included below. See Table 4

The Iranian exhibition at Karachi should help Pakistani

importers and consumers to identify merchandise items which can be imported from Iran to Pakistan. Iran is developing her heavy industry also. Pakistan may increase the imports from Iran of intermediary goods like chemicals and chemical products, sulphur, petroleum products and products of the petroleum products and products of the petro-chemical industry. Pakistan can also increase imports of dried fruits, saffron, and vegetable plants, seeds and flowers. Pakistan and Iran can cooperate in education, science and technological and the promotion of agriculture and industry in both countries. The two brotherly countries are setting up a joint shipping company. This should promote bilateral trade by sea.

Table 4. Major Exports to Iran (Rs. 000S)

	1982-83	July-August 1983
1. Fabrics of synthetic artificial fibre	915853	212
2. Cotton fabrics	792174	60,596
3. Silk fabrics of mail or other waste silk	623975	
4. Rice (all sorts)	459665	191,799
5. Wheat unmilled	266057	45,638
6. Yarn of cotton	352217	15,289
7. Yarn of wool and animal hair	107436	20,552
8. Fertilizers manufactured.	131332	-
9. Thread of cotton	87075	2,170
10. Yarn and thread of artificial fibre	64092	669
11. Wool	85277	1,766
12. Crude fertilizer	27726	-
13. All other items	312359	37053
Total	4225232	375744

CSO: 4600/328

MRD OPPOSES 'MODEL CONSTITUTION' IDEA

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] PESHAWAR, Jan. 17: The provincial MRD has described the proposed "model constitution" as an attempt to divert the attention of the people from the real issues and to dupe them in the name of Islam.

The MRD which met here with Abdul Rashid Sattar in the chair observed that the struggle launched for the restoration of the peoples rights had yielded positive results as the political coordination and cooperation among the parties had helped expose the Government and its policies. It fully endorsed the decisions of the central MRD and discussed in detail the future course of action. It suggested that in order to really defuse the situation, 1973 Constitution be restored and elections held to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people, failing which it feared the consensus of the federating units on the 1973 Constitution might be shaken.

By a resolution the meeting condemned the official propaganda that any of the MRD prisoners had apologised and described it as "A white lie".

It also called for concrete measures to remove the hurdles blocking the industrial growth of the province. The meeting demanded that restrictions of trade union activities should be lifted.

CSO: 4600/328

REGIME SAID LOOKING FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH POLITICIANS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] KARACHI, Jan. 17: The political circles here are of the firm belief that Government posture viz-a-viz political leaders has softened and a face-saving device is being worked out on both sides.

Some leaders, out of the pale of MRD, when contacted told this correspondent that a fact-finding mission led by some important government functionaries is contacting different people in search of a formula to bring about some sort of rapprochement between the Government and the political leaders detained in jails or in their houses.

These circles are giving much importance to the reported visit of Khawaja Masroor Hassan, Director, Intelligence, to Sind.

It has been reported that he has met some important political leaders in Hyderabad and intends to meet more. However, when the leaders in Karachi were contacted they denied having any contact with the Director, IB, or for that matter any government functionary.

The political circles are also giving much importance to the recent release of some politicians in the country, including workers.

According to them this is a step forward on the part of the Government towards a rapprochement.

However, these circles believe that the top leadership of MRD would find it difficult to come to an understanding with the Government unless they were unconditionally released. These circles are of the opinion that a report was expected to be submitted to the President after his return from Casablanca in the light of which he might take a decision in this connection.

CSO: 4600/328

BRIEFS

HAMEEDA KHUHRO REJECTS OFFER--Hyderabad, Jan. 16: Dr. Hameeda Khuhro, whole time Member of University Grants Commission has refused to be Vice Chancellor of Women University. She said that she is against the separate university for women. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Jan 84 p 6]

PPP LEADER ON PARTY'S STRATEGY--Karachi, Jan. 17: Makhdoom Amin Fahim, acting President PPP, Sind, has reiterated his stand that no new strategy was required to run the party in the absence of Miss Benazir and Begum Bhutto. "We are in the fold of MRD and bound by its four points demand." He was commenting on a news item appearing in an evening paper, in which it has been said that PPP, Sind, would soon announce a new line of action in view of Miss Benazir's departure abroad for treatment. When contacted, Makhdoom Amin Fahim said that it was a mere speculative exercise on the part of the reporter, "We are with the MRD and it is our strategy that any decision taken by MRD would be binding on us. This view has been endorsed by Miss Benazir also in her Press conference at London airport." He said his meeting with Yahya Bakhtiar and Makhdoom Talibul Moula had nothing to do with a new strategy. "The former is senior colleague and the matter is my father. Meetings with them should not generate these wild rumours." He also denied any knowledge of Government's moves to release political leaders. "Better ask them. The leaders have been arrested on their orders and it is they who are going to release them," he added. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 84 p 8]

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9 March 1984